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Niagara NEWS

OCT. 16, 1998 *VOLUME 29, NO. 2* FREE

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Niagara graduate will work in Chile

By JEFF BOLAN
Staff Writer

Niagara College is sending an ambassador to Chile as part of a new partnering agreement with the University of Santo Tomas.

Signed by Niagara College President Dan Patterson and Gerardo Rocha, president of the corporation which runs the university, on Friday, the agreement is part of an on-going relationship between the two learning institutions.

Niagara will be sending Mary Williams, a graduate of the International Trade post-graduate program, to Chile.

This program is unique because the college will have a former student working in Chile to assist the students in Canada, said Patterson.

As the Canadian representative at the university, she will be working with Chilean students to research and develop information on the Chilean economy. This will be used by businesses in the Niagara region.

Williams said she feels "the opportunity for students will increase dramatically" as the program grows and begins to take shape.

Students of the International Trade post-graduate program at Niagara College will assist local manufacturing and technology industries research trade possibilities with the South American nation.

Theo Ward, the international projects assistant for the Centre for International Trade, held a key role in arranging the agreement. This is "an excellent opportunity for students to get ahead," he said.

It gives students and industry "exposure to markets with relatively low risks and costs," he said.

There are many similarities between the Chilean economy and the economy of the Niagara region, he said, in particular "the wine industry."

The similarities make the regions well suited to trade in technology and industry, he said.

As part of the program, students must complete 150 hours in an internship with a local company.

Fall fun

Summer is over but Alyssa Pilkington, 9, of Welland, and brother, Ryan, 6, find fun throwing leaves in the park at the end of Royal Oak Drive.

Photo by Rosemary Bartlett

Board has new approach for program reviews

Hands-on for better appreciation

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

The Niagara College Board of Governors sank its teeth into the Dental programs on Oct. 8.

The board has a new approach, starting this year, to program reviews. Last spring, the board decided to try a hands-on approach to get a better appreciation of a specific program area.

There will be one professional development visit per term. The Dental program area was selected for this term.

The board was given a short presentation by staff members from the Dental Assistant (levels one and two) program, the Dental Hygiene program and the Dental Office Assistant program.

Following the presentation, the board took a tour of the college's dental facilities on the third floor of Simcoe Building at the Welland campus.

Get the answers you need at new Information Centre

One-stop shopping helpful

By ROSEMARY BARTLETT
Staff Writer

It's one-stop shopping at the Information Centre.

Located at Niagara College's First Avenue entrance in Welland where the five flags fly, the Information Centre is the place to go when you need a photo identification card, directions, information and applications for the January start programs, course information, transit schedules — you name it, they try to have it.

If they don't know the answer to a question, they'll try to source it for you.

"The last thing I want to do is give anyone a wrong answer. If I can't answer a question, I say I don't know, or I try my hardest to find out," says Matt Bitze, 22, of Ottawa, a second-year student in the Broadcasting—Radio, Television and Film program. Bitze is one of the six student ambassadors hired under a work bursary program at the centre.

"It was kind of a leap of faith," says Al Vaughan, the college's registrar. "We know that there's no direct link to increased enrolment, and it doesn't bring in revenue, but you know intuitively it is the right thing to do."

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International Days & Community Open House

NIAGARA COLLEGE CANADA

Welland Campus International Day
Date: Thursday October 29, 1998
Time: 12:30 - 1:30
Place: In front of the Hamilton Room

Glendale Campus International Day
Date: Friday October 30, 1998
Time: 10:00 - 2:00
Place: Glendale Campus

Maid of the Mist Centre Community Open House
Date: Saturday October 31, 1998
Time: 11:00 - 2:00
Place: Maid of the Mist Centre - 5881 Dunn St., Niagara Falls
- Baking, Cooking & Casino Gaming Demonstrations
- Wine and Food Tasting
- International Displays
- Table Setting Displays
- Prizes
- Program Information Sessions

See displays from around the world! Have your name written in many languages!
Free admission to all days - Presented by the international students at Niagara College

News Across Niagara

Connecting with employers

By J.W. BROWN
Staff Writer

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE — The staff at Employment Services maintain their interest in "strategies to connect" students and graduates to employers.

Amy Elder, manager, Employment Services, Niagara College, Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake, wants to encourage "both employers and students to watch for special events like job fairs and career fairs that will be hosted by Employment Services at all three campuses," (Welland, Glendale and the Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls.)

"This year, our focus remains the same . . . exploring any kind of linkages or partnerships with employers in the community and also community agencies," said Elder. "Anything that will allow us to bring the profiles of our students and graduates more to the forefront with opportunities in the community."

She said specific job fairs or career fairs will be targetted to specific programs within the college community.

"We invite employers to come and participate in providing information about their company and employment opportunities with their company," said Elder. She can be reached at (905) 641-2252, Ext. 4023.

IBM Canada will be at the Glendale campus on Wednesday, Nov. 18, to present an information session for co-op students or students interested in the IBM Internship Program, which lasts 12 or 16 months. The session will be held in auditorium E101, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The applicable programs are Business Administration (Human Resources Management Co-op, Marketing Co-op, Operations Management Co-op), Business Administration - Accounting (Academic or Co-op), Business - Accounting (Academic and Co-op), Computer Sciences, Electical Engineering Technology - Power Systems (Co-op), Electronics Engineering Technology (Co-op), and Office Administration - General and Office Administration - Executive (Co-op).

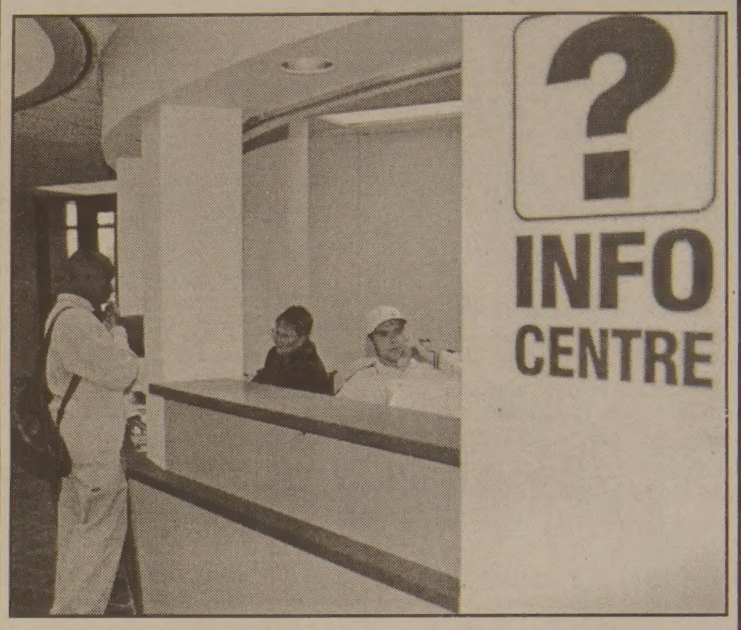
The speakers will include Les Chapman, manager, outbound recruiting, Rashmi Singh, co-op co-ordinator, and Kathy Martin, co-ordinator, IBM Internship Program.

Elder said IBM will provide pizza and pop for the students attending the seminar.

Students are also invited to attend a high-tech career fair at the Welland campus on Thursday, Nov. 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the Tecumseh Lounge, where they will meet students from the computer, electrical, electronics engineering (technology and technician programs), computer programmer analyst and computer network operations programs.

Students from all years are welcome to attend. For further information, contact Jean Brodie, co-op consultant, Employment Services, Welland campus, (905) 735-2211, Ext. 7743.

Information Centre helps give direction



Lindon Barrett, 20, of Hamilton, a second-year student in the Human Relations program seeks information from Patty Faragalli and Matt Bitze at the Information Centre.
Photo by Rosemary Bartlett

Continued from Page 1

The opening of the Information Centre in mid-August coincided with the physical changes made to the entrance on the outside, says Vaughan, adding it "made sense to capitalize on finally having an entrance at the college."

The idea for the centre came five years ago when Vaughan began as registrar. He initiated a "help desk" during September and January enrolments to take new applications, provide directions and answer questions. It was designed to ease some of the congestion at admissions by funneling students into two lines at the financial aid wickets.

From this early beginning a need was shown for the service, says Vaughan, adding, it made him realize "how many people there are wandering around without knowing where they are going."

Patty Faragalli, of Fenwick, an 18-year employee of the college and the centre's senior staff member, says since the centre opened, the counselling office is able to get more work done. She says that office used to be the first one visitors would find after entering the college. They would all "storm in there asking for directions. . . . We've made a large impact on their work load."

A decision was also made to merge the liaison office, which is the student recruitment office, with the Information Centre, says Vaughan. This gives prospective students and their families visiting the college a "beacon" to start their guided campus tours from, he says.

Faragalli says they are "hoping" to add more services as staff becomes more aware of their existence and the services available. Ideally, she says, she'd "like to see it get to the point where every co-ordinator, as part of their daily routine, let's us know what is taking place the next day, the next week, or over the next month" so that they can assist in directing visitors to their proper destinations.

"We're not here just for students. We're here for students, the public, the staff and everyone."

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POSTER SALE

Trade shows organized for Small Business Week

By SARAH STORM
Staff Writer

Small Business Week is a national celebration of entrepreneurship, which began Oct. 14.

Organized by the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) and endorsed by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Small Business Week has three events planned.

There is a small business trade show sponsored by the BDC at the Ramada Parkway Inn on Ontario Street in St. Catharines on Oct. 20 and 21. Kathy Bissel can be contacted at 684-2361 for more information.

On Oct. 28, there is a BDC open house at the BDC in St. Catharines at 4 p.m.

There is a micro-enterprise show with two 20-minute presentations at Prudhommes Landing, in Vineland, sponsored by the BDC on Oct. 27 at 3 p.m. Contact Dolores Fabiano at 732-7515 or Ginny Day in Grimsby at 945-8319 for more information.

News Across Niagara

Blood donor clinic starts Oct. 20

'It's a good cause'

By RACHEL CZIFRA
Staff Writer

An unconscious man lies like a rag-doll on the pavement.

His wife and children huddle around him and in a low voice his wife says, "Hold on, the paramedics are coming."

Why does the idea of paramedics on the scene bring such a sense of safety to victims? Because the paramedics have with them an essential substance vital to recovery — blood.

Hundreds of thousands of Canadian citizens give blood each year.

On Oct. 20 to Oct. 22 eligible students, faculty, and administration at Niagara College can participate in the annual blood donor clinic.

"Students should participate because it's a good cause," said Jamie Ebsary, president of the Student Council Admisitration (SAC) at the Welland campus.

"If you can donate, you should because it's going to help out a lot of people."

This year's mini-clinic enables students and teachers to pre-register so they can schedule around classes.

"It works better for everyone," said Ebsary.

First-time donors will be asked to read a pamphlet before donating. Then a nurse will check the iron levels in the donor's blood and ask a few personal questions to ensure the quality of the blood.

"Donors can be in and out within an hour," said Gary Kennedy, donor service representative at Canadian Blood Services.

Kennedy said the three-day mini-clinic will give donors "so much more personal attention" and the smaller concept provides a more relaxed atmosphere. Cots will be set up in the SAC office.

Giving blood could also win a plaque for your program.

SAC will donate a plaque to the program with the most participation.

The clinic begins Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 4 a.m. and continues on Wednesday and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Donors are asked to pre-register with Cindy Blanchard in the SAC building to help make the program run more smoothly.

Niagara College students heed the call for blood donations.
Photo by Rachel Czifra

Letterman's Top 10

CANADIAN BLOOD SERVICES

Here are the Top 10 reasons why you should give blood, done as television's David Letterman might do it (supplied by the Canadian Blood Services)

10. Free cookies and juice.
9. It doesn't cost anything.
8. It doesn't take a long time.
7. It lets you give something back to your community.
6. Your friends, family . . . even you, may need blood one day.
5. A donation of blood helps babies, accident victims and people who need surgery.
4. Giving blood is completely safe.
3. One donation of whole blood can save the lives of four people.
2. Giving blood will make you feel good about yourself.
1. It's a great way to make a difference.

Additional information:

You can give blood if you meet the following criteria:

- Are between 17 and 60 years of age.
- Can provide identification with full name and signature or full name and photograph.
- Are in good health and feeling well on the day of donation.
- Weigh 110lbs (50kg) or more.
- Have had adequate sleep and something to eat before the donation.
- Wait for 56 days after giving a donation of blood.

If you've gotten a tattoo, had ear/skin piercing or acupuncture in the last 12 months, have an active cold, flu, or sore throat, are currently taking any medications, or had sex with someone within the past 12 *months whose sexual background you don't know, you may not be eligible to give blood.*

Please speak with a blood donor representative or nurse before donating.

Contingency plans for computer problem

College shutter bugs win contract

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

There are 442 days left.

The year 2000 will create problems for computers, but Niagara College is preparing for the millennium.

"We are year 2000 ready," said Beth Weldon, director, Information Services, during a presentation to Niagara College's Board of Governors Oct. 8.

The problem is most computers contain a date-dependent microchip. Earlier computers were created with enough space in their memories for a two-digit date. When the year rolls over on Dec. 31, 1999, most of these computers will think it is the year 1900.

This problem could affect everything from banking services to something as simple as a toaster which contains a microchip.

Weldon said Information Services is working on strategies and contingency plans.

In other board news:

• College staff are meeting with McMaster University representatives in Hamilton, Ont., to discuss a possible partnership with the college's Manufacturing and Mechanical Engineering Technology program and McMaster's bachelor of applied technology degree.

• The Environmental programs at the Glendale campus were given $250,000 worth of scientific equipment from Walker Laboratories over the summer.

• Niagara College has won the contract to supply photo identification cards to Brock University in St. Catharines.

• Sandy Fox, manager of ancillary services, successfully reached an agreement with Xerox to provide a high speed duplicator at no capital cost to the college. This unit will be housed at the Welland campus with the smaller units being moved to the Glendale campus.

• A Business Administration program graduate reunion is scheduled for Oct. 24. The Call Centre students have volunteered to contact all graduates. They've reached 850 to date.

• Martha Casson, vice-president, Enterprise and Service Development, has been appointed to the Ontario Tourism Education Council Board of Directors.

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News Across Niagara

Students get 'hands on' experience in ECE

By DEBORAH RICHARDSON
Staff Writer

She's a teacher, co-ordinator, student and volunteer and thinks having a full-time career means going beyond the doors of the college.

Allison Soave, of Niagara Falls, Early Childhood Education (ECE) co-ordinator, has been working at the college "in some way, shape, or form, since 1969."

"I started out many, many years ago when (the ECE program) was only a half-day preschool program in the Annex building," she said.

Soave is responsible for the ECE program and any other related programs, including three post-diploma programs offered.

Graduates have the opportunity to take an Infant Care Education program, an Administrative program, or a Resource Teacher program, all in the Early Childhood Education field.

"We offer three focuses you can go into after getting the ECE diploma."

In dealing with recruitment, Soave said she visits high schools "periodically" around June to talk to students about career choices in the ECE field to "keep numbers up" in the program at Niagara.

She describes her job as "full-time plus," putting in time to be on the parent advisory committee for the ECE program and volunteering on a number of boards of directors.

Soave received her own Early Childhood Education diploma from Ryerson University in Toronto, and went on to complete a bachelor of arts in psychology and a master's degree in education at Brock University in St. Catharines. She is working on a PhD in Early Childhood Education at State University of New York at Buffalo.

During the 29 years Soave has worked at the college she took an absence of three years in the early 1980s and worked in Kingston because her husband was transferred for his own employment.

She said day care was "a much smaller program there and was run by the community and social services for families at risk."

Soave said she offered day care to a number of children when one or both of the parents were jailed and the children were forced to take up temporary residence in Kingston.

The Early Childhood Education program at Niagara College has 174 students this year with 114 first-year students and 60 second-year students.

"There are too many success stories to pick," said Soave, going through a list of graduates who have used their diploma to go on to course-related careers.

"Pat Eversden, manager of the child-care centre, is a graduate of our program so she's obviously a success story."

She said other graduates have gone on to get married, have children and run their own child-care centres from their homes, or be assistants in the school board, even though they can't be qualified teachers with a teaching certificate.

"Because we have a co-operative agreement with Brock's child studies program, (graduates) can get up to 4.5 credits off their (bachelor of arts in child studies)."

If students choose this direction and take the four-year child studies program, they will end up with Niagara College's ECE certificate, a bachelor of arts in child studies and a teaching certificate.

The program and the college day care have "close ties" because they are "a demonstration lab."

Putting students into placement at the day care is an advantage for students who do not have access to transportation.

She said the day care takes "so many more students" compared to other community programs.

This year the program is continuing a project started last year founded by Human Resources Development Canada. The Mentoring Research Project is running here in Niagara, in St. John's, Nfld., and Halifax, N.S.

"There are 15 first-year students involved this year, so we'll be watching their progress."

The program has not gone through any major curriculum changes since several years ago, but Soave said she is careful to make sure the "content is a reflection of what's required in the field."

"We prepare people who want to work in child care and education programs for various children."

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- Find out how the Millennium Scholarship Fund might work for you.
- Find out how the Canada Education Savings Grant assists parents saving for their children's education.
- Find out how the National Graduate Register helps private companies recruit recent grads for permanent jobs and students for summer, and co-op jobs.

You can also connect with Canada's Youth Employment Strategy by visiting the Youth Resource Network at **www.youth.gc.ca**

Youth Employment Strategy / Stratégie emploi jeunesse
Canada

Children get week of dedication

By DEBORAH RICHARDSON
Staff Writer

It's a week-long event to recognize the growth and importance of the children of the future.

Every year, a week in October is proclaimed Week of the Child by the Ontario branch of the Association of Early Child Education.

Pat Eversden, manager of the Niagara College campus Child-Care Centre, said the Week of the Child is not only a college event but a "Niagara community celebration as well."

"(The association) tries to encourage us to do special events to heighten awareness to politicians and to parents."

Events for Week of the Child this year are being held from Monday, Oct. 19 to Friday, Oct. 23.

The Association of Early Child Education's goals for the week are to show parents and the community the importance of quality in early childhood education.

The official kick-off ceremony will be held at the Niagara Regional headquarters in Thorold on Monday.

Eversden said the day care is being "encouraged to participate" and take kids and parents to this official kick-off.

A parade across campus, led by Barney, will take place on Wednesday afternoon. Pony and donkey rides for the children will be offered by Dusty and Jiggs.

The kindergarten group will be going on a day trip to the Welland Public Library on Wednesday.

There will be a ticket draw for a gourmet basket with a fall and Thanksgiving theme to finish off the Week of the Child. Tickets are being sold by the parent advisory committee for $1 or three for $2 and are available at the Child-Care Centre. All proceeds will be donated to the centre for new toys for the children.

News Across Niagara

Smyth's spirit benefits deserving student

By DEBORAH RICHARDSON
Staff Writer

An award in memory of a well-recognized man gives hope to deserving students in need.

Jason Beauregard, 21, of Port Colborne, a second-year Engineering and Technology program student, was presented with an award from the Niagara Industrial Training Advising Corporation (NITAC) in memory of Joseph M. Smyth.

Present during the presentation was Niagara College President Dan Patterson, Oscar Zanatta, trustee for scholarship funds, Chris Blake, executive director for the Niagara College Foundation and the college's Marketing and Communications Department, Leo Tiberi, director of the college's Communication and Information Technology Division, Debbra Beauregard, Jason's mother, and Elaine Rouse, 20, Jason's girlfriend.

Unfortunately, Mrs. Smyth was unable to attend because of health reasons.

This is the first occasion the college has had to present the NITAC award in memory of Smyth. The award presented was the interest from a $25,000 donation by NITAC given to the college.

Zanatta, on behalf of NITAC, said he thought it would be "fitting to recognize Joe by the scholarship."

Attending the first presentation of the Niagara Industrial Training Advising Corporation are, from left, Leo Tiberi, director of Communications and Information Technology division, Elaine Rouse, recipient's girlfriend, Debbra Beauregard, recipient's mother, Jason Beauregard, recipient of the award, Dan Patterson, Niagara College president, and Oscar Zanatta, trustee for scholarship funds.

Photo by Deborah Richardson

He said he believed what he was presenting would be turned into a part of Beauregard and a part of his future and contribute for the rest of his life.

The donation was made almost two years ago and made $500 in interest, which was presented to Beauregard in memory of Smyth, who was a member of the board of NITAC, but passed away nearly three years ago.

Patterson said he believed Smyth was "very passionate in training and the importance of it. He was a real friend to the college."

The recipient of the award had to have gone to high school in the Niagara Region, and had to write an autobiography on how the individual believed they were best suited for the award.

The student had to show financial need, but still have a good grade average in the technology branch of the college.

Beauregard worked for a couple of years after graduating from high school at E.L Crossley in Fonthill. He lives on his own, has his own car, and still managed to get an 86 per cent weighted average in year one of a four-year program.

Zanatta, who was on the committee that made the decision, said what stood out about Jason's application was that he wrote it all out by hand.

"Jason showed a real need, not a perceived need."

Beauregard's mother said she is "very proud, he's worked very hard for (the award) and he'll make sure he uses it to the best of his advantage."

She said Jason has always wanted to go into this field.

"He faces a lot of problems that a lot of young students do and it's very difficult to get a job, make ends meet, get your education. We've seen him go through all the different steps it takes."

Patterson said the college is wanting to work with Beauregard and feels it's important that he stands as a role model for others also in the field.

Blake said he thinks the award is "great" coming from "such a large contribution."

He said as a fund-raiser it's his job to find more organizations that can fund awards to offer help for students.

Beauregard said that even though he is receiving funds from the *Ontario Student Assistance* Program it "is not really enough."

He said he doesn't want to get a part-time job because he would like to put more into his studies and if he was to work, he wouldn't have time for homework that the Electronics Engineering Technology course requires.

"NITAC setting money aside like this really speaks for what they are all about, trying to promote good training," said Patterson. "It's encouraged colleges and other trainers to be more responsive."

Tiberi said he's "always thrilled" when students win these awards.

"It shows how high the quality of our programs are and our students are, so it's expected."

Blake said Beauregard getting the award was "a little more difficult because he had to apply. It wasn't just congratulations, you're the best student and here you go."

Beauregard was asked to write a short thank-you letter to Mrs. Smyth because she was unable to attend.

"I have to thank her. She's mostly responsible for this."

Patterson said he is "really pleased for Jason" and thinks "scholarships and recognition of academic excellence is something that we constantly have to do more of."

Beauregard said "it's really great that (NITAC) is willing to give so much to the school and so there *will be others after me to get this* award."

Book sale set for Oct. 24

Members of the Welland District chapter of the Canadian Federation of University Women get set for their book sale on Saturday, Oct. 24.

Photo by Joseph Morris

At Welland cafeteria

By JOSEPH MORRIS
Staff Writer

Books are on the menu at the Welland campus cafeteria.

The Welland District branch of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) kicks off its 28th annual book sale on Saturday, Oct. 24 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Welland campus cafeteria.

Proceeds provide $500 scholarships to local area high school women who plan to attend Canadian universities.

About 75 members voluntarily contribute their time to assist with picking up, sorting, setting up, and selling. Books are donated by organizations and individuals.

Lori Root, general convener, expects about 500 buyers to come out to the event, which this year sports more than 10,000 books.

Tables will be set up by subject. Crafts, cooking, music, sports, travel, how to, hobbies, French texts and more will all be part of this year's offerings.

"Children's books, games, tapes, and CDs are available for the young ones, making the book sale a family affair," says Root. "Avid collectors and book lovers look forward to and line up early for great book buys long before the doors open at 9 a.m."

Individuals wishing to donate additional materials are encouraged the contact the CFUW Welland 735-1253, Fonthill 892-4138, or Port Colborne 835-2281.

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Health Issues

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Herbs, new-age trend, old remedies

By RACHEL CZIFRA
Staff Writer

Congestion in your lungs? Try drinking a hyssop tea.

Welland's second herb festival of the year attracted more than 100 curious festival-goers to 360 River Rd., making the teaching effort a success, said festival organizer Eva Hagar, of Welland.

Hagar and her grandchildren hunt for herbs from Dunnville to Niagara-on-the-Lake. She said when she finds them "it's like finding gold."

Herbs all grow in specific areas for certain reasons. They all have purposes and energies that suit the needs of the people in the area, said Hagar.

The longtime herb lover said she spent her childhood with her Mennonite grandmother, who could use herbs to "fix anything but a broken leg."

Now Hagar is the grandma.

She laughed and said, "When they (her grandchildren) are sick they call and say 'Grandma Good Witch, whatcha got for me?'"

EVA HAGAR

Hagar attributes the recent trend towards herbs to the fact people are looking to get back to something natural.

"They want to take care of their own bodies and are looking at healing themselves in a different way."

The festival was designed to display various alternative methods of healing.

"I'm not in it for money but to teach people."

Along with camomile, spearmint, basil and other autumn herbs, she also sold books, homemade oils, vinegars, baked goods, plants and native dream catchers.

Throughout the day, a homemade video illustrated some of Niagara's autumn herbs and explained some of their uses.

Telsie Boese-Bell, a minister at Niagara Fall's Calming Crystal Church and promoter of the new oil "Young Living," also set up a table at the festival.

She makes her own blends and works with the oils to "help me to maintain a balance of a healthy body."

Boese-Bell spoke to the group in the early afternoon.

"I do everything through spirit connection," she said, adding she tries to use the oils to help treat the cause of an individual's problem rather than treat the symptoms.

"As we turn into ourselves we look for assistance to help expand our knowledge, to balance the body and to maintain a presence of harmony."

Hagar said she and the other vendors were happy with the turnout.

These are some autumn herbs and their uses:

- Valerianis used as a sedative and nerve tonic.
- Milkweed— its calming aroma soothes tension.
- Licorice removes congestion from lungs and is good for asthma and fever.
- Jerusalem artichoke, eaten like potatoes, is valuable for diabetics and low starch diets.
- Nasturtium provides natural antibiotics and is high in Vitamin C.
- Motherwort acts on menopausal symptoms, nervousness, insomnia and heart palpitations.
- Chicory relieves skin lacerations and swelling.
- St. John's Wort treats various cold and fever symptoms.
- Yarrow strengthens blood.

How to spell condom? S-a-f-e-t-y against AIDS

By SANJA NOVAKOVIC
Staff Writer

Unsafe sex is risky business. Just ask Carolyn Hurst, Niagara College's nurse at the Welland campus.

Hurst invites students to come to the Health Centre with their problems or questions and she'll help them.

"No question is ever too small for an answer, and no question is a stupid question."

If she can't help them, Hurst said, "I'll find someone who can."

Of particular concern, she said, is the need to use condoms to protect against acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

AIDS has no cure. It ultimately kills those infected with the HIV virus, which causes the disease.

According to Robert S. Feldman, author of *Development Across the Life Span*, the use of condoms reduces the risk of transmission of the virus.

He said condom use during sex has increased, and people are less likely to engage in casual sex with new acquaintances.

AIDS is transmitted through the exchange of bodily fluids, mainly blood and semen.

It has proven difficult to motivate teenagers to employ safer sex practices, said Feldman.

"Although most adolescents are aware of the importance of safer sex practices, their feelings of invulnerability sometimes lead them to believe their chances of contracting a sexually transmitted disease are minimal," he said.

Medical authorities advise that unless an individual knows the complete sexual history and HIV status of the sexual partner, unprotected sex is a risk.

Because AIDS is spread primarily through sexual contact it's classified as a sexually transmitted disease (STD).

Hurst said students can get free condoms from L20, the Health Centre.

One in four adolescents contracts STD before graduating from high school. Overall, some 2.5 million teenagers contract an STD each year.

The primary way AIDS is spread in Ontario is through unprotected sexual intercourse with someone who has AIDS, said Alan Spencer, program manager for the STD-AIDS program at the St. Catharines Regional Niagara Public Health Department.

He said the best prevention is to wait until you're involved in a long-term relationship and to use condoms consistently and properly.

Spencer said testing is a personal choice. Although test results may be negative, he said, the "window period" lasts for 14 weeks. That's the time between getting the virus and when a positive test results.

"We know the young people in Ontario often have unprotected intercourse, so the message is be aware of your personal risk."

Spencer said HIV statistics show the age of infected people has gone down over the years.

The Public Health department provides anonymous testing. The AIDS hotline number is 1-800-263-4911.

Dental cleaning practise makes students-in-training proficient

Models' teeth close to perfect

By SARA De TAMBLE
Staff Writer

Practice makes perfect. That's what first-year Dental Hygiene students are learning during their clinics.

They practice on models — rubber-covered metal skulls with a set of intact false teeth.

Janis Peskett, 24, of Welland, says the clinics are a good idea because she had no previous dental experience.

"We got into the clinics right away, and they have been a good experience so far."

Co-ordinator Carol Barr-Overholt says the use of models in clinics helps students develop instrumentation skills without concern about working on live human tissue.

"We do make mistakes when we're learning," says Barr-Overholt. "We need to work the bugs out before going into a real mouth that has blood vessels and nerves."

Students simulate cleaning teeth on the models, something a client would experience during a regular dental visit. Sarah Phillips, 19, of Burlington, says she sometimes takes her work home with her. "We actually buy the models at a small fortune so we can practice on them at home."

Phillips says the models' teeth are "pretty close to perfect," but have a few small problems. Client's teeth will not be perfect. As much as she's enjoying the clinics, Phillips say's she's anxious to start working on actual clients.

"At first, the models are fun and all, but now I want to talk to someone," says Phillips.

The students' first real clients will be each other, says Barr-Overholt. As student partners they'll practice the work they've been using the models for. Phillips says although she's looking forward to working on a classmate, she thinks the experience will be a little nerve-racking.

"I feel more confident about me doing it than someone doing it on me, but that's always the way."

It isn't 'someone else' when HIV test results come back positive

The Public Health department provides anonymous testing. The AIDS hotline number is **1-800-263-4911**.

Should you be tested for HIV or AIDS?

1. Have you ever had sex with someone infected with HIV/AIDS?
2. Have you ever had anal sex?
3. Have you shared needles to take drugs or other substances?
4. Are you uncertain about your sexual partners' sex practices or drug use?
5. Have you had a sexually transmitted disease?

If you answered "yes" to any of those questions you may want to be tested.

To prevent the transmission of AIDS

- Use a condom.
- Avoid high-risk behaviours.
- Know your partner's sexual history.
- Consider sexual abstinence.

NIAGARA COLLEGE
of Applied Arts and Technology
WELLAND CAMPUS
LEARNING
RESOURCE CENTRE

Health Issues

'90s midwives make housecalls

By RACHEL CZIFRA
Staff Writer

Midwives are taking the control of delivering babies away from doctors and giving it back to women.

Prioritizing the comfort and health of a mother-to-be, the service of this "new" profession combines the skills of a doctor and counsellor.

"Clients have a choice of everything they do," said Ann Lovold, a full-time midwife at the Niagara Midwifery Clinic on Welland Avenue in St. Catharines.

After meeting her midwife, the expectant mother decides whether to give birth at home or in the hospital, whether she will deliver with or without anesthetics and in what position she will deliver.

Melissa Moberly, 20, of Kitchener, gave birth at home on Sept. 13 with the help of Ann Crab, a midwife working out of Kitchener's Community Midwifery Clinic. Moberly said she was sure it was the bond between them that reduced her stress level during labour.

"Hospitals take your control. I wanted to have a choice," she said, adding she didn't want doctors or nurses telling her what to do. She wanted to do what worked best for her and her body.

In contrast, Melonie Moyer, 21, of Kitchener, said she had read and heard of alternative birth methods but "didn't want to risk it." She wanted the safety the hospital could give her.

"It was the most unknown, scariest thing I've ever experienced. If I wasn't so scared I don't think the pain would've been so bad," said Moyer.

After 30 hours of contractions, her baby was ready to be delivered. Moyer said she was exhausted and nervous and told nurses in the delivery room she was "really" scared. While one nurse held her hand and offered consolation, another said, "Bear with it. You're in for more."

Not only do midwives suggest less strenuous labour positions that work with gravity, they also create nurturing relationships with their patients, said Lovold.

They help you to know what's going on with your body and your baby, said Moberly, who opted to have a natural birth in a tub placed in the baby's new room.

"I knew I wanted to sit in the tub during contractions, and once I was in it, I didn't want to get out."

"During the contractions I just leaned against the side of the tub. Then I guess I leaned back and sort of floated."

The baby, born into the water, continues receiving oxygen through the umbilical cord for a few minutes. This is said to be easier for the baby, said Moberly.

Regular check-ups throughout the pregnancy help develop a bond and trust. The midwife provides general pros and cons of using painkillers, and allows the expectant mother to share various emotions and concerns pertaining to the pregnancy.

Midwives also teach their clients massage, hydrotherapy and other relaxation and fear-reducing exercises.

Lovold, who graduated from an Ontario Midwife Education program at Ryerson University in Toronto, said the well-being of the mother and baby remains the midwife's responsibility until the baby's sixth week.

Since the opening of this, Niagara's first midwifery clinic, on Oct. 1, 1997, they have successfully delivered 80 babies.

MedicAlert speaks when you can't

Free membership

By LEAH FARNAN
Staff Writer

Imagine yourself in a tropical destination. You have just eaten something you're allergic to but don't know it. You feel yourself getting dizzy and pass out. You can't speak for yourself, but MedicAlert can.

One in five Canadians has a medical condition warranting the use of a MedicAlert tag, says Leigh Wagland, of Toronto, public relations co-ordinator for the Canadian MedicAlert Foundation.

Wagland says about one million Canadians are members of the charity, leaving five million Canadians who should be.

MedicAlert members wear a bracelet or necklace engraved with any medical condition, drug or food allergy, special need, personal request or any medication needed in an emergency along with member identification number and a 24-hour emergency hotline number.

If members are unable to talk for themselves in a medical emergency, health-care professionals will be able to learn any information they may need from their MedicAlert tags. If they have any questions, they can call the hotline to receive the patient's up-to-date medical information and personal contacts.

The hotline works in conjunction with AT&T and is available in 140 languages.

There are 17 countries that have MedicAlert, but medical personnel throughout the world, whether their country participates or not, are trained to look for the tags, says Wagland.

The Canadian foundation was established in 1961.

Wagland says it's been successful over the years because it's an "internationally recognized symbol."

She says MedicAlert "protect(s) people every day" and offers members "peace of mind."

When people enrol, they automatically become life-time members. Along with the tag, they receive a wallet card listing medications and the names and phone numbers of physicians and emergency contacts.

Becoming a member is free and can be done by seeing a physician, visiting MedicAlert's Web site at www.medicalert.ca or by telephoning 1-800-668-1507.

Walkers brave elements

By MELINDA JOHNSTON
Staff Writer

Storm warnings scrolled across the bottom of television screens and were broadcast on radio stations. Stay inside. Better yet, take refuge in basements or door frames. On Sept. 27, throwing caution to the wind, a few people ventured out nevertheless.

Braving gusty winds and heavy downpours, 250 dedicated people in the Niagara region fulfilled their obligation and participated in the largest single-day fundraising awareness event in Canada.

AIDS Niagara held its eighth annual eight-kilometre walk as did 70 other community sites.

"Over $30,000 was raised and there is still more money to come in," says Joan Blanchard, resource development co-ordinator for AIDS Niagara. "It takes about three months to tidy up from a walk, with people still honoring their pledges."

Seventy-five communities across Canada raised $3.5 million this year in donations. Unique to the walk is the fact all money raised stays in the community to provide support and education prevention programs there.

Money raised nationally, after all expenses, is shared with local walks.

"AIDS Niagara looks after 65 people affected and infected by the AIDS virus," says Blanchard. "The money raised will provide them with limited financial assistance and care teams."

"We had positive feedback from the walkers this year," says Blanchard. "Evaluation forms were filled out with comments such as 'It was a pleasant event, staff was courteous and friendly.'"

There were 35 to 40 volunteers on site to provide participants with juice, coffee, doughnuts and hotdogs, all donated by local businesses.

"Thanks to the donators our expenses for the walk were reasonably low," says Blanchard.

Since the walk started four years ago on a national level, $12 million has been raised.

PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY FORUM

Open to All Students and Staff

Your opportunity to talk with the President

Share information and ideas for the future

Niagara's Quality Improvement Plan

How Niagara College is Investing in Quality Education and Services for Our Students

Thursday, Oct. 29, 1998

from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.

Room S209, Simcoe Wing, Welland Campus

An opportunity for students and staff to hear about some of the investments that have been made this year, and to offer suggestions and ideas for continued improvements in quality education for the future.

There will be a presentation by Dan Patterson, President, Niagara College, followed by an opportunity for dialogue with the audience.

Editorial

Niagara News

The **Niagara News** is a practical lab for the Journalism-Print program, covering the college community and other areas of interest. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the management of the Niagara News or the administration of Niagara College. P.O. Box 1005, 300 Woodlawn Rd., Welland, Ont. L3B 5S2. Phone (905) 735-2211/ 688-1380/ 384-9760/ 382-2383/ FAX (905) 735-7669.

Editor: Rosemary Bartlett, **Associate Editor:** Lee Whitehead, **Assistant Editor:** Melinda Spurvey, **Publisher:** Leo Tiberi, director Communications and Information Technology, **Managing Editor:** Phyllis Barnatt, co-ordinator Journalism-Print program, **Associate Managing Editor:** Gary Erb, instructor Journalism-Print program, **Advertising Managers:** Ron Crowley, Ron Tufts advertising instructors, **Advertising-Account Manager:** VBS Advertising, Ron Crowley, **Advertising Design:** Tracy Jay; **Photography Consultant:** Jhim Burwell, photography instructor, **Photography Crew:** Film Processing: Rachel Czifra, Jodi Gierling, Lisa Heydon, Marnia Anderson, Shannon Palomaki, David Olsen; Contact Sheets: Aaron Beaudoin, Sean Coffey, Robin Morais, Larissa Kondusky, Tyler Robinson, Melinda Johnston; Scanning Crew: Sharilyn Johnson, Christine Morgan, Debbie Richardson, Noelle Stapinsky, Charlie Ashbury, Joe Rowling.

Teachers under scrutiny

Teachers, stop your whining. (I'm not referring to my college professors, for whom I have the utmost respect.)

You get paid for what is essentially nine months of work.

You're entitled to about nine weeks off in the summer, two weeks at Christmas, and a coveted and much envied week-long break in March. And, let us not forget the five statutory holidays a year, and a measured amount of professional development days artfully woven into the school calendar.

Salaries range from $31,000 to $65,000 a year for spending four hours and 10 minutes a day in front of students teaching. According to my calculations that still leaves four hours and 50 minutes a day, for lunch, class preparation and marking, assuming an average work day is nine hours.

But then there are the extracurricular activities that bite into your time you say.

Excuse me, but have we missed something here? The children perhaps?

What has happened to the profession that once stood for something beyond common self-interest?

Teachers need to get back to the basics of teaching, just as the students must get back into the basics of learning the 3-Rs.

Besides, you're not as hard done by as you may think. Try writing as a profession.

Rosemary Bartlett

It's a world without heroes

The world has no more heroes.

Gone are the days when children could look to celebrities for inspiration. The Lou Gehrigs, the John Waynes and the Winston Churchills are all gone.

Today's spotlight is focused on money-hungry athletes, scandalous politicians and drug-abusing musicians. Do we really want our children idolizing these people?

Perhaps it would be better for a child to choose a hero closer to home. Maybe we should all do that.

For example, a father, with whom we had our first game of catch. Maybe a mother, who waited for us every day at the bus stop. It could be the uncle who always greeted us with a cheery hello. Perhaps the high school English teacher who went out of her way to make a difference.

These are the people we could not have gone without during our early years. Whether or not Michael Jordan existed would never have made a difference.

Lee Whitehead

Letter to the editor

Looking good at Niagara

Dear Editor:

Niagara College, you are looking good!

After leaving Welland upon retirement, I returned to work on a short-term training project.

I am impressed by what I see. The Welland campus has been refurbished in many nice ways. I particularly like the improvement in student service: the information kiosk, central grouping of registration, counselling and financial aid, among others.

The Fitness Centre above the gym in old Mackenzie boasts new equipment. The cafeteria is brighter and After Hours has more activities with bands and shows. No wonder the Welland campus is expanding with the Automotive Centre.

The Glendale campus is beautiful. I can't imagine it was a mess of construction debris just a few weeks ago. Its design again is student centred. Many people worked day and night all summer to make the two campuses ready for this academic year. Niagara College is surely on the go.

Above all, I really appreciate the warm greetings from colleagues old and new. It makes me happy that I am still part of Niagara. Even the students (like Nicki and Steve at the Student IEEE) smile at me. Of course, they don't know I was a professor. They will look forward to challenging and rewarding careers. I have met many of our graduates all working successfully (and looking the part), the latest *being Ms. Suk, Pharmacy 1996, at* the Credit Valley Hospital in Mississauga.

With financial pressures and other constraints upon the colleges, it cannot be all roses. But Niagara people have tried and succeeded in making this college a grander institute of learning.

I am proud of you.

Gordon Chen,
Former Niagara College faculty member
Mississauga, Ont.

Your letters welcome

Your voice or opinion is welcome in our Letters to the Editor section. Our policy regarding letter submission is the following:

1. All letters must be received on the Friday one week prior to publication.
2. Each letter must include the writer's name. Students should include a college identification number and program of study.
3. All letters must be signed and include a day and evening phone number for verification use only.

All letters can be mailed or brought to the newsroom, Rm. S212, Simcoe Building, Welland campus.

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Speaking Out

Rushdie needs to re-examine his stance

He can't use the freedom of speech argument as a defence to dehumanize others

By LAZARUS NATHANE
Staff Writer

Is it a good idea to interfere with other people's beliefs? Could we, based on the premise freedom of speech entitles us to?

What is freedom? Are we at liberty to do whatever we want, whenever we want, without the necessity of being accountable? Fortunately, that's not too many people's perception.

The logic is that those of us sensitive toward other people's feelings and emotions always think twice before saying or doing something that could hurt them, enrage them or affect their morale.

In fact, we're so diplomatic we won't indulge in their criticism even if we have a reason and an opportunity to!

So, I'm disappointed one of the 20th century's most notable authors, Salman Rushdie, doesn't share that logic. Perhaps he has his reasons.

I don't know Rushdie well enough but based on my observation of him, I think the guy is too defensive and indifferent. He always seems to have fun unloading his feelings on others without the thought of how that may affect them.

Frankly, I don't think it is his work, *The Satanic Verses*, but rather his attitude that led his adversaries to put a bounty on his head.

Rushdie is unapologetic and has not learned no one is always right

Having said that, I want to emphasize I'm in no way condoning or supporting the death edict on him, which the Iranian government said it cannot withdraw but has distanced itself from.

I'm saying Rushdie is unapologetic and hasn't learned no one is always right.

Apparently, close to 10 years in hiding under British police protection, didn't make him realize that.

For example, it wasn't he, but British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, who issued a bold and apologetic statement to the United Nations. Cook said he regrets the offenses caused by *The Satanic Verses* in Iran and elsewhere in the world.

Rushdie, on the other hand, struck a contrasting and defiant tone. Asked if he will consider removing his controversial work from bookstores, he said, "There is no way in hell of the book being withdrawn. We have not fought a battle for freedom of speech to give in at the last moment."

Tough guy! It seems Rushdie cannot differentiate freedom of speech from his divisive and insulting remarks. That's a character flaw.

He cannot use the freedom of speech argument as an excuse or defense to degrade and dehumanize others and what they believe in. That's an abuse of his privilege and a blight to their imagination.

His defiant stance shows it's going to be some time before he could be truly free

I think any privilege should be enjoyed while taking care not to go beyond the limit. To me he isn't a victim, but an arrogant perpetrator.

How could he expect continued sympathy and protection from the British government when he keeps unloading his raw feelings on the Iranians instead of trying to ease the tension as they have demonstrated?

Remember his remarks, after emerging from hiding, in which he said he doesn't regret writing the book that led the Iranian government to reiterate the death edict on him as being irrevocable.

True, he has expressed remorse over those killed or injured as a result of their association with his book, but I think his regret needs to be inclusive rather than selective.

He needs to realize his assertion that his judgment is superior to others will lead him nowhere.

Rushdie's present defiant stance shows it will be some time before he could walk the streets of London as a truly free man, perhaps not until he learns to compromise!

Given that the issues of race and religion bring out the worst of emotions in people, I think we need to be very careful when discussing or dealing with them.

Help me to find that special car, I need it

I'm still looking for a car that isn't broken, 'as it is' or 'needs work'

By CHRISTINE MORGAN
Staff Writer

Wanted: in good condition, a car costing about $2,000.

It shouldn't be this hard. There are several ways to find a car for sale.

Even though that's true, after weeks of networking and looking through *Auto Trader* magazines and countless newspapers, I am left with little hope of finding "the one."

I am still searching for a car that isn't broken or sold and an advertisement that doesn't read "as is" or "needs work."

My brother, Jim Morgan, 22, of Welland, gets a new car every six months on average. He looks for a car and within days he owns it and insures it for the road.

I'm different from my brother. I am looking for a car, not a hobby.

More than three weeks ago I thought to myself, I want to buy a car.

I spread the word around to family and friends, hoping they could help.

I quickly discovered that cars even in the $1,700 range are hard to find in good condition. Finding "the one" is a hard thing to do and actually buying a car is seeming to be a rather unlikely endeavor.

My plan for looking for a

decent vehicle, buying it and putting it on the road within a week just didn't work.

Now my bright light — my hope for getting a first car — has become a dim, dull match that's in danger of burning out.

I thought looking for a car would be the easy part of the buying process.

As things have turned out, looking can be a costly process.

What will happen next? repeats over and over in my mind.

Several days into the adventure my troubles started, and recently they have multiplied.

Close behind are the lessons I've learned, such as my experience with borrowing a car to go looking for a car of my own.

I should check to see if anything might go wrong with the car I'm riding in.

It may break down and then I'm stuck in St. Catharines paying, outside of the regular Canadian Automobile Association (CAA) benefits, $15 to get the car towed into Welland.

Another day, another newspaper, another Auto Trader and the money I saved for the car is slowly disappearing.

I thought looking for a car would be the easy part of the buying process

The money is spent for cabs and buses and for gas money in other people's cars to get me from point A to B.

If you have "the one," please contact the Niagara News office by telephoning 735-2211, Ext. 7750.

Exercise caution when applying for credit cards

Other students are not so lucky

By MARNI ANDERSON
Staff Writer

They're in the hallway by the book store. They tempt us with promises of free coffee cups. They're the credit card application people.

I filled out an application last September for a CIBC Visa. I filled it out honestly. I was rejected. Around Christmas I ran out of money. I couldn't buy presents for my family and friends. I wish I'd lied on my credit card application. I could, then, have charged everything, but I wouldn't have been able to repay it and I'd have a huge debt now. My family has forgotten the Christmas presents they didn't get and I'm grateful I didn't get the card.

Carri Anderson, 21, of Niagara Falls, wasn't so lucky. The day she got her Visa she says she went shopping and reached her $500 limit in a few hours. She says she has six more credit cards from different stores and owes a grand total of $4,000. Paying $350 a month in minimum payments and interest, she says she doesn't use her cards anymore. "There's no point."

This debt is "screwing up my wedding," says Anderson. "Instead of the $8,000 wedding we want,

we're having the $3,000 wedding we can afford."

Anderson, who is marrying Joe Nero, of Welland, next July, says because of this financial irresponsibility their wedding has to be done as cheaply as possible.

She advises students to get a credit card only "in case of emergencies" and forget about department store cards.

Tim Herbert, a community sales leader for CIBC Bank, says credit cards aren't the only way for students to establish a credit rating.

"A phone bill or utility bill — anything in your name — establishes a credit rating."

He says if you pay your bills on time and don't miss a payment this helps build a credit rating so you don't necessarily need a credit card.

If you do get a card, Herbert says, "resist the temptation to buy unnecessary items and only use credit as a last resort."

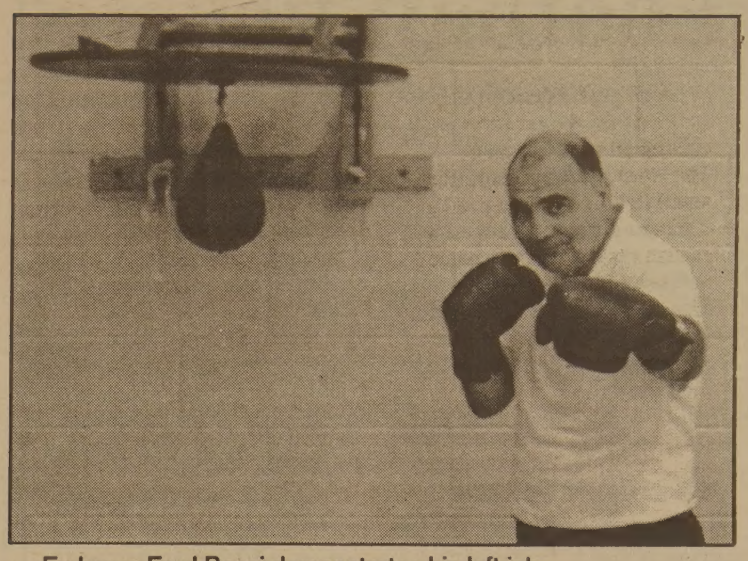
He suggests people establish a budget and keep track of expenses. "Only establish credit you think you can manage."

Leaving a balance on your card may actually hurt your credit rating, says Herbert. If you're trying to get a loan and a credit check is done and it's found you make only minimum payments each month your loan application may be rejected.

If you lie on an application, Herbert says, "the card can be revoked and full payment demanded," adding it seems like a "great length to go to just to establish bad credit."

Profiles

Former boxer part of Niagara team



Ex-boxer Fred Bassi demonstrates his left jab.
Photo by Robin Morais

By ROBIN MORAIS
Staff Writer

Fred Bassi says he knows about fighting and bleeding in the ring because he did just that as a boxer for seven years.

Bassi, 53, a faculty representative in the Niagara College Athletic Department, began boxing at age 19 in Boston as a way of developing his conditioning for hockey, a physically demanding sport.

"I always liked boxing and when I learned it, I enjoyed it," he said, adding when he returned home, he resumed boxing to continue developing his hockey conditioning and to learn more about the fight game so he could pass it on to other people.

Bassi fought five fights as a light heavyweight at 172 pounds, but battled as a heavyweight (198 pounds) for the rest of his career.

Bassi said he fought 40 fights, the majority of which were amateur contests. Two were as a professional. The first he lost by a technical knockout in the second round but he bounced back successfully in his second fight to win by a knockout in the first round.

"That was the end of my pro career."

His record stands at 27 victories, 13 losses and no draws. Bassi describes his record as being "an honest one. I did my best."

The tough ex-fighter said at the end of his boxing career, he took up another aspect of the fight game: training young, talented fighters at the now-defunct Welland Boxing Club.

"I worked in the corners of fighters, encouraging them between rounds to keep on fighting and don't give up.

"I was able to see what the fighters were going through, especially after a hard round because I'd been through it myself."

He said he tried, as a cornerman, to "take away the quit" in them, especially after a tough round.

"Boxers got tired during a fight. As a result, they got hit and hurt, so I tried to put the confidence back into them between rounds."

He said conditioning was "very important" for all sports, but particularly for boxing because if boxers get hit, the hit can have a lasting effect on them.

Bassi said he didn't believe in shouting and screaming at boxers to get them to fight.

"I used to tell them to go back to the basics: namely, keep their chins and elbows in, and hold, punch and slip their opponents.

"Usually what I told them worked because in a boxing contest, it was a fight for survival for the boxers so they had to use their ring skills to avoid serious injury or death."

The former boxer said boxing can be a safe sport if the boxers are in good condition, if they're not overmatched and if they get sufficient rest between fights.

"Fighters who follow that criteria usually last longer."

Bassi said one of the most notable fighters he remembers coming out of the Niagara region was Mark Rome, a light-heavyweight boxer who fought and lost a close decision to top heavyweight contender Lennox Lewis from Kitchener.

Lewis is regarded by many boxing experts as one of the best heavyweights in the world.

"You've got good fighters from all over the globe and Canada is no exception."

The former pugilist said some of Canada's better boxers in recent times are Mike Strange, Tom Glesby and Billy "The Kid" Irwin.

He said Strange is Canada's best amateur fighter. "He fights with class."

Bassi said Irwin and Glesby are world-class fighters.

He said sports, once done properly through fair play, can unite countries.

He used the examples of big boxing contests, the Olympics and the Soccer World Cup as perfect examples of hundreds of thousands of different peoples from throughout the world and from "very different cultural backgrounds" coming together and learning about each other through sports.

Bassi said boxing helps to get fighters off the streets and away from crime and drugs.

"Most boxers come from tougher environments than many other people, but (boxing) channels their aggression into something positive."

He said it takes a lot of hard work, self-discipline, determination and respect for an opponent for someone to become a good boxer.

Bassi said police forces have created boxing clubs for young people, to help them release their aggressive energy.

He said he believed Canada's amateur boxers are good because they always hold their own in international competitions.

"We've always won gold, silver and bronze medals at Olympic and Commonwealth Games levels."

However, Bassi said, at the professional level, not enough money is put into the sport.

Bassi said he would like to see more business people invest in professional fighters, work with them and pay them accordingly.

"The bulk of the money should go to the fighter because he's the one who is fighting and bleeding in the ring, so give him a chance to earn a decent living."

Bassi said boxing is a "tough game and you've got to protect the fighter."

He said boxers need to have the right trainer and other people around them to ensure they stay in shape.

Bassi, while stressing he had nothing against managers, criticized those who forget about the welfare of their fighters outside the ring.

He called for strong boxing commissions to be set up to protect the fighters and to respect the managers and promoters.

He said boxing contracts should be written in a simple way so boxers can fully understand their contracts.

"Maybe he (the boxer) didn't have the opportunity to go to school so he didn't understand the wording of the contract, but it doesn't mean that he's stupid.

"Let's be fair to the fighter and give him a better name."

He said his favourite boxers were Rocky Marciano, Joe Frazier and Roberto Duran.

"I liked Marciano because he's the only heavyweight never to lose a title fight and Frazier and Duran for their aggressive fighting styles."

He said Frazier and Muhammad Ali had one of the "greatest fights" in the history of the sport. The event was called The Thriller in Manila.

"They weren't afraid to give it their all."

New post for Conradi at Niagara

DONNA CONRADI

By MARNI ANDERSON
Staff Writer

Donna Conradi has a new job.

After 25 years of holding various positions at Niagara College, Conradi is the new co-ordinator of the Human Relations program, replacing Bev Brown, who retired last year.

"Good fortune smiled on me," said Conradi.

Nancy Cain, former director of Health and Community Studies, said she chose Conradi for the job because she "has a long-standing reputation in this college. She's also a very kind individual and genuinely cares about people."

Donna Cunningham, director of Health and Community Studies, says Conradi is "extremely capable and interested in the students." Cunningham worked with Conradi in the nursing programs and said she feels "very fortunate to retain her. Not only does she do the right thing, she does the thing right."

Conradi was a teacher and co-ordinator of the Practical Nursing program and the gerontology programs at Niagara College.

Conradi won the Niagara College Award of Excellence for faculty two years ago.

Cunningham says in order to win the award one person nominates you and two other people sign. Then the nominators submit a "testimony" as to why you should win.

Conradi said the Human Relations program at the Welland campus is "incredibly interesting. Student career goals are as varied as people themselves in a class."

"It's different than I might have expected. Compared to previous programs, the Human Relations program has a great deal of flexibility within it."

She said the program provides "a strong background in communications. Our graduates find employment wherever they like or wish to work." Conradi says employers in Canada have identified the skills they need in their employees and "we address them."

There are 46 first-year students enrolled in the program.

Conradi says all graduates who find employment have been successful, adding the students gain problem-solving and communication skills. "Communication skills are so important."

Students spend three-quarters of the two-year program involved in work experience, said Conradi, adding they are given "real tasks." Third semester students will organize and implement a fund-raiser for the United Way.

Students spend 18 hours a week in the classroom in addition to their work experience.

Future animator started here

After going east to work, a Niagara College grad is back

By LESLEY WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

Jason Dalgleish, of St. Catharines, is one of thousands of Canadians vying to work in the multimedia industry.

Dalgleish, 25, got his start at Niagara College in Welland. In 1995 with Visual and Creative Art and Design (VCAD) diploma in hand, he travelled east to attend the renowned Nova Scotia School of Creative Art and Design, where he concentrated on photography.

"It was a whole cultural experience (and gave us) chances to show our art, amazing visiting artists who came in to speak."

He's back in Welland, studying computer animation at the Media Lab, an industry standard certificate program at Father Fogarty Adult Learning Centre.

"It's half a day of lab work on the computer and then a studio portion — colour theory, life drawing. I'm in there Monday to Thursday nights for open access time. It's very self taught."

Dalgleish is planning to work as a computer animator, specializing in film special effects.

He has high praise for Niagara College's Visual Arts program.

"It gave me a chance to try everything — drawing, painting, two-and three-dimensional design, a little bit of computer, desktop publishing, layout, silkscreening, typography and illustration. You pick the direction you want to go in," said Dalgleish.

"Life drawing with Cosgrove (instructor Ken Cosgrove) was just a blast. It improved my drawing skills quite a bit. He could help anyone with anything, stay late at night. He is a great artist. He wasn't one of those teachers who'd go, 'oh, that's so beautiful, that's so lovely.' He's definitely not afraid to speak his mind."

SAC

Ride, shuttle bus for $2

By CHRISTINE MORGAN
Staff Writer

Not everything turns out as planned.

Student Administrative Council's (SAC) first attempt at providing transportation for students is one of those things.

"We had to taxi students in," says Cindy Blanchard, office manager at After Hours.

The bus went to the wrong place, says Blanchard. Twenty-six people arrived by taxi at Niagara College's Welland campus Oct. 1 for the Graffiti Pub at After Hours.

"I had a good time, it's a good idea," says Brian Durocher, adding he would do it again. It gives people like him some freedom, he says.

"Convenient," says Durocher, 20, of St. Catharines, about the Laidlaw shuttle bus service.

He was the only person in St. Catharines waiting at the Pen Centre for a ride to Welland. Durocher is in the Computer Programmer/Analyst program at the Niagara College Welland campus.

The shuttle bus will be picking people up at the Maid of Mist campus in Niagara Falls at 8:30 p.m. and Pen Centre (in front of the cinemas) at 9 p.m. It will leave the Welland campus at 1:30 a.m. sharp for all future performances.

Students and their friends can reserve a seat on the shuttle bus at their SAC office. A $2 fee includes a chance to win a prize.

'Convenient.'
— Brian Durocher

Blanchard says the shuttle service will be provided to students about once a month to a major event at the pub, but which dates aren't decided.

The shuttle bus would be offered more often, but Blanchard says it's expensive to rent.

The $2 paid by students helps pay for that cost and gives a chance to win something.

Reserve your seat at the SAC office for the Oct. 29 Halloween pub night.

Football tickets

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

Calling all football fans!

The Student Administrative Council (SAC) has organized a bus trip to Toronto to attend a Canadian Football League game on Friday, Oct. 23.

The game will feature the Toronto Argonauts entertaining their arch-rivals, the Hamilton Tiger-Cats.

Niagara College students can purchase tickets to the game for $20 each. The fee includes the ticket and will help cover the cost of the bus.

Cindy Blanchard, SAC office manager, says tickets can be purchased at any of the SAC offices at any campus.

Last year, SAC organized a successful trip to Buffalo.

Blanchard says a return trip to Buffalo wasn't possible because of the exchange rate on the American dollar.

"It would end up costing the students, by the time they paid the exchange, over $60 a ticket," she says.

The Toronto-Hamilton game will kickoff at 7 p.m. Students can board the bus at one of three locations: the main parking lot at the Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls at 4 p.m., the Pen Centre in St. Catharines at 4:30; or outside the Mackenzie building at the Welland campus at 5 p.m.

Getting students involved is important

By SARAH STORM
Staff Writer

Spread the word.

Jamie Ebsary, the new Student Administrative Council (SAC) president, says the main concern this year is "getting the word out to students."

"We want to get the students involved," says Ebsary, adding, "We want them to know that SAC is here for them."

Ebsary, 20, of Hamilton, is a second-year student in Law and Security Administration (LASA) program.

She says she commutes back and forth from Hamilton and is putting 20 to 25 hours a week in at SAC, trying to catch up from SAC's late start.

Most student councils begin planning in August, but Niagara's SAC began in October, she says.

The atmosphere and the people who attend Niagara are what she likes about the school, she says. "It's just a lot of fun."

Ebsary says she enjoys her program. She says she has "excellent teachers" with the "experience to let the students know what it is like in the real world."

She says she is not behind in her school work, but is spending "a lot" of time doing homework at home.

This is Ebsary's last year at Niagara. She says she is planning to attend McMaster University in Hamilton next year for social sciences. Ebsary says she wants a career as a police officer.

In high school, she was part of a tri-president, which was formed

JAMIE EBSARY

when the president of her student council quit school for a week and then decided to come back.

Lots to do, see this month

By ANGELA PICKERING
Staff Writer

It's a busy month for the Student Administrative Council (SAC).

SAC has organized many events for students.

A Blood Donor Clinic is set for the Student Conference Room in the Student Centre on *Tuesday, Oct. 20 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., on Wednesday, Oct. 21* from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and on Thursday, Oct. 22 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Anyone wanting to give blood can contact Cindy Blanchard in the SAC office for an appointment.

Meanwhile, the Toronto Argonauts are playing the Hamilton TigerCats on Oct. 23 and students are welcome to attend. SAC is planning a trip to the game at the Toronto SkyDome. Tickets cost $20 and include the bus ride and the seat at the game.

Buses are leaving from Maid of the Mist in Niagara Falls at 4 p.m., from the Pen Centre in St. Catharines at 4:30 p.m., and from Welland at 5 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 27, will be a day of fun if you come out and register for the X-treme Games.

SAC is preparing a day of mock *Olympics*.

Teams must consist of five people. Each person will do one of the events, but all team members will participate in laser tag. Teams can sign up at the SAC office. It runs from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The list of events include laser tag, bungee-run, a rock-climbing wall, jousting, boxing and a maze. Teams can win prizes of free movies, special shirts, laundry bags and everyone gets pizza and participating shirts.

It will be held outdoors behind After Hours. In case of rain, the new location will be announced.

Scary movies, prizes for best costumes

By SARAH STORM
and JENN MOIR
Staff Writer

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE-Many Student Administrative Council (SAC) events are being planned for the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

SAC met Oct. 8 at the Glendale campus and proposed a variety of future events, such as these:

• Getting into the spirit.

The Glendale SAC hopes to "get everyone in the festive spirit" for Halloween, says student representative Tonya Guthrie. Guthrie, 20, is a first-year business administrative student.

There will be decorations, music, prizes for best costumes, scary movies, a pumpkin-carving contest and treat bags. The treat bags will cost $1 with all proceeds going to the college's United Way campaign.

• Through the efforts of SAC, the 5-0 Taxi Company, of St. Catharines, will offer the taxi service at a flat rate for Glendale students. For example, a one-way trip to Glendale from Glenridge will

More information at Glendale SAC

$7.50, from Brock University $9. 50, from Port Dalhousie $15. Students must show their student identification or otherwise the rates aren't valid.

• Student ambassadors are needed for the grand opening of the Glendale campus on Saturday, Oct. 24 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For further information, contact the SAC office, Ext. 4225.

• Out of the Cold, a home in Niagara Falls that gives homeless people a warm bed and meal, is looking for volunteers. Everett Wright, 24, a Business Administrative-Accounting (Co-op) program student and vice-president of campus events, says he's "personally interested in helping."

The Culinary programs at the Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls donate excess food to the house.

• Student health and dental care may be offered for Niagara College students, says Michael Berry, a third-year Mechanical Engineering Technology (Co-op) program student and vice-president of campus events at the Glendale campus. He is planning to have "a referendum" to see if a majority of students are interested in a health care plan.

• Glendale SAC hopes to rent an ice rink for student use. They are planning on having a pick-up hockey league. Students who wish to get involved should watch for the posters and contact SAC.

• SAC is planning to buy promotional items, such as Frisbees, T-shirts, pens, mechanical pencils, hats, key chains, hospital pants and shirts and desk pads. All these items will have the SAC logo and will be used for future contest prizes.

If you have any questions about upcoming events or would like more information, contact the SAC office at the Glendale campus.

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News Across Niagara

Demand for skills met by students

Opened June 1997

By LEAH FARNAN
Staff Writer

Imagine completing a course without attending a scheduled class. Niagara College's Open Learning Centre (OLC) makes that possible.

"The idea is (students) can come in on their own schedule, not ours," said Rick Fortier, 30, of Welland, the co-ordinator of Distance Learning and the Open Learning Centre.

Students of the OLC, in Hennepin Hall at the Welland campus, can book class time weekdays 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

OLC teaches students software applications by combining interactive software training programs with trained instructors. This teaching method allows "students to learn at their own pace," said Foster Zanutto, director of Continuing Education and Distance Learning.

He said, "There is a tremendous demand for application skills."

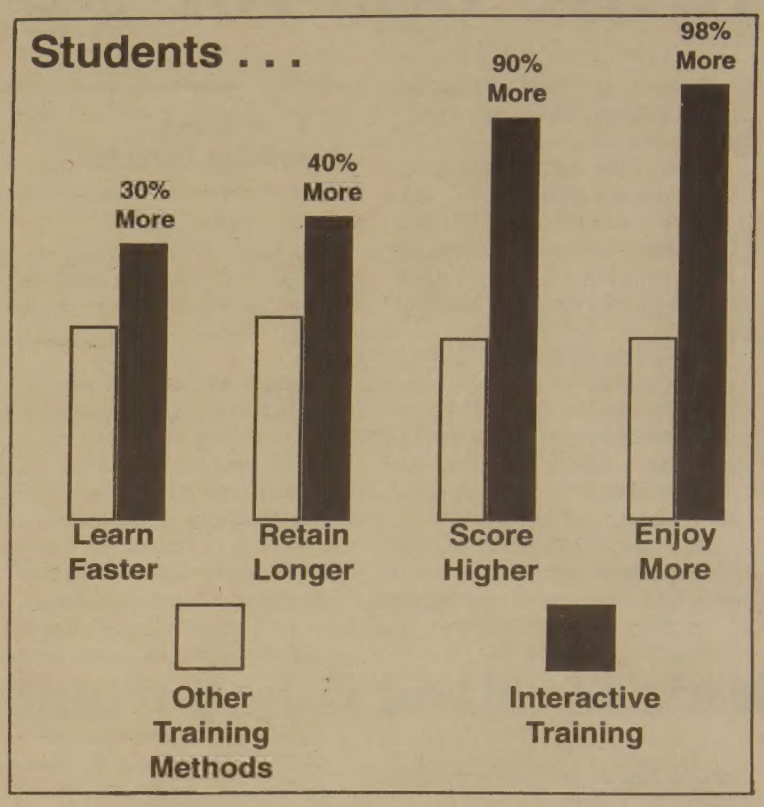
OLC, open since June 1997, teaches between 200 and 300 individual students a year. Companies, such as Niagara Credit Union, use OLC to train and update their employees' skills in computer applications.

OLC leases computers and software to companies for a specified time period so their employees can use the training programs to learn applications.

Zanutto said the OLC is ideal for people who either "can't wait" to be trained or who "can't have a set schedule."

Fortier said the OLC is "great for people with shift work." He is one of the three instructors at the OLC. The others are Frank Fucile and Ashraf Hashmi.

It usually takes students about eight to 15 hours to complete a course, said Zanutto, adding students can take as long as they need. He said they can complete the course in less time than conventional education because they have "one-on-one training."



To receive credits students must complete assignments and exercises and have a three-hour evaluation session with an instructor. There are no diploma courses offered through OLC.

The cost of a course is $195. A corporate rate of $180 per course is charged when there are 10 or more people from one company enrolling.

OLC is focused on basic skills, said Zanutto, adding higher level skills require a more hands-on approach.

Zanutto said, "The beauty (of OLC) is for adults who've been away from schools and computers. It's not threatening."

He and Fortier said OLC will be expanding course offerings to include managerial and business sessions as early as next year.

There are plans to set up an additional OLC in the Glendale campus. The location hasn't been determined, nor has an opening date.

Earn bachelor's degree in half the time

Students able to earn degree in two-year university fast track in Lewiston

By MARNI ANDERSON
Staff Writer

A Niagara College diploma has its advantages.

Obtaining a diploma from Niagara College could get you a university bachelor's degree two years sooner.

Niagara's Social Service Worker program has signed an articulation agreement with Niagara University in Lewiston, N.Y. The agreement allows graduates of the program direct entry into third-year university where they can earn a bachelor's degree.

"That talks about the quality of our program," said Rick Lutz, an instructor in the Social Service Worker program at the Welland campus.

Lynn Bird, an instructor in the program, says this saves students money because college is cheaper than university.

Bird says about 10 graduates take advantage of this agreement every year. "They really like our grads."

Graduates who choose not to go on to university can get jobs as counsellors, health care aides, case workers for the regional government and court support workers.

"The list just goes on and on," says Bird.

"This isn't easy work. We work with people who are often at a low point in their lives and our job is to learn not to give advice, but to support people in reviewing their options."

Alwyn Delazzari, 18, of Niagara Falls, a first-year student in the Social Service Worker program, says she's "learning all the things you're not supposed to do," adding it's "hard to convert" from giving advice to listening instead. "You take a lot of it home with you."

Lutz said it has to be a tough program. "These are the people that other people come to for support."

Social service work "requires a sense of compassion," and people in this field must have the ability to "put their own issues aside so they can work effectively with other peoples issues," he says.

The "goal becomes helping people find solutions to the problems of living," says Lutz. "Everyone has problems."

The concept of team work is an important part of this course, says Lutz. "They have to be independent yet be part of a team."

Although it's a difficult program "a lot of effort is put into students who are having difficulty. We're very responsive to students' needs," says Lutz.

Students spend about 650 hours doing field placement, where they go into social service agencies and take on a caseload. They start in term two and go right through to the end.

This year the Social Service Worker program has 50 first-year students and 42 second-year students. Last January there were 25 students who started this program and 25 more are expected this January.

Region approves firing range

By JOSEPH ROWLING
Staff Writer

Niagara Regional Police Service (NRP) officers will be training at Niagara College's Welland campus, but they aren't trying out for any intramural sports team.

The Region's finance committee has approved $4.9 million for a police training facility and firing range. The facility is to be built on the site of the Annex, which will be gutted and rebuilt with a second floor over part of it. The firing range will be built north of the Annex building.

The firing range will be strictly for the NRP's use. The training facility will be used to train officers. It isn't yet known how it will be used by students, if at all.

The NRP and the college will be sharing resources. The NRP will have access to the gymnasium, cafeteria and library, while the college will benefit from having officers with years of experience on campus. This will be helpful for students of the new Police Foundations program and the Law and Security Administration (LASA) program.

Heather Hodgson, co-ordinator of LASA, is a liaison between the NRP and the college. She said the "firearms area is state of the art. It will be phenomenal."

"Their audio-visual centre will be here. They have won awards and are very well known across the province, and even North America, for their training tapes."

The agreement is a long-term partnership and not a "landlord-tenant" relationship, said Hodgson.

She said the college is planning to create programs utilizing NRP officers' knowledge and skills to help LASA and police foundation students.

"We are working on a post-diploma program as well as in-service seminar training in the summer months. We hope to bring in officers to the residence for seminars for different police organizations."

Plans are still in the works and all that's certain is the facilities will be built. Most of the projects are "still up in the air," said Hodgson.

The NRP anticipates the training facility and firing range will be completed between the fall of 1999 and the fall of 2000.

Help has now arrived

By MARY WARRINER
Staff Writer

Help is as near as the Learning Resource Centre (LRC).

Niagara College's Welland campus LRC is open Monday to Thursday from 8:15 a.m. to 8:45 p.m. and Friday from 8:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Starting Oct. 17, Saturday hours will be from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

There are stations downstairs with access to the Internet and to an international database. Staff is available to help students download articles.

Some of the new databases include the following:

- Ebsco Host, an American publication
- Canadian Business and Current Affairs, a Canadian publication
- Electronic Resource Library
- Career Explorer
- Britannica On-Line.

"We encourage students to integrate audio visual materials into their presentations," says Trish Labonte, Niagara College's LRC manager.

To check out a book you must present a "library card" defined as either your student card or some other form of picture identification.

The book loan period is two weeks, with the possibility of renewal, provided it isn't highly requested material. If you're late returning the material you'll be charged 25 cents daily until it's returned.

The LRC will send out three notices. After 30 days the book is "flagged" as a lost book and the final notice will tell you the replacement cost.

"We are here for the students, but we are trying to make sure the students have fair access," says Labonte.

NIAGARA COLLEGE
of Applied Arts and Technology
WELLAND CAMPUS
LEARNING
RESOURCE CENTRE

AT GLENDALE

Glendale campus makes history

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

The Glendale campus, in Niagara-on-the-Lake, benefits the college and the community.

"The start up of our new Glendale campus represents a special moment in the history of Niagara College," said Niagara College President Dan Patterson.

The location and programming are the result of a "tremendous effort" by many people who helped develop the Master Plan, he said.

The Master Plan is the college's long-term goal in the development of the college's facilities and programs.

Why Glendale?

It is geographically placed at the four corners of Thorold, St. Catharines, Niagara-on-the-Lake and Niagara Falls, a part of the peninsula that is developing economically, he said, adding the site is probably one of the finest places to locate a new campus.

"The wonderful thing about the actual site is that we are really enhancing the environment," he said, adding they are going out into the surrounding land and making it into a prominent place within the community.

"We probably have one of the largest living laboratories . . . we have 18 acres of land that is devoted exclusively to environmental issues."

He said the college has also undergone a major transformation process. It will now be specializing in certain areas, he said.

At Glendale there are programs in environment, horticulture and agribusiness, which make up just one of the market cluster of programs being offered, he said.

The programs are designed to meet and exceed the students' expectations for growth and job opportunities, said Patterson.

They also run a range of important business programs that will serve the emerging needs of a strong Niagara, he said, adding there is a cluster of integrated manufacturing programs designed to aid the manufacturing sector.

The college is working with such companies as John Deere, of Dain City, Hayes Dana, of St. Catharines, General Motors, of St. Catharines and Iafrate Machine Works Ltd., of Thorold, as well as a host of other companies ranging from small to large manufacturers who are an important economic base for the community, he said.

Another area is business ventures. The college works with employers in the Niagara region, offering consulting or training services, co-ordinating training or delivering training, he said.

Included in this cluster of offerings is the college's Innovation Centre, which promotes small business development, and works with individuals who are interested in developing their own business.

"Underpinning all this is a strong belief that the college plays an important role in the economic life of the region, that our programs and services align themselves to the economic fabric and are interwoven into that fabric, so our programs and services reflect the economic needs of the area," said Patterson.

The second element to this is that Niagara is an "enterprising college" which prides itself with being innovative and continuously improving and updating its programs, he said.

The key to success in this area is the college's ability to work with industry advisory committees, which help mould the programs and make sure they are current, said Patterson.

As for the reputation of the college as an educational institution, he said the initial reviews have been "rave reviews" by students and industry.

"I think we will see a great surge of interest in Niagara from not only outside the region (within Ontario) but also outside the province and across Canada."

The college will also have a greater impact on the community, he said.

"I think Glendale as well as our other campuses will now be seen as an important pillar in the community for economic growth and quality of life," he said, adding people will begin more and more to see an educated workforce as something which ties directly into the quality of life.

He said the community will begin to see the college as part of the engine of growth and part of the success factor that leads to a high quality of life in Niagara.

"I think the public should view Niagara College as a rich resource which they can tap into.

"Our ultimate goal is for the community to see us as them, that we are one in the same," said Patterson.

Students and employers will continuously expect programming that is relevant, timely and flexible to meet their emerging needs, he said.

"As education is transforming dramatically with changes in information technology, it requires us to be very quick and agile. It requires us to be open minded and ready to embrace change."

Patterson said in 10 years he sees the college as having clearly established itself as one of "the best mid-size colleges" in Canada with thriving programs that are flexible and adaptive to the changing needs of the students.

"I think the next 10 years holds a great deal of promise for Niagara College, but nothing is guaranteed. In order to stay on top we need to be seen as a place where people want to come study.

"You constantly have to adjust, plan and anticipate change, always thinking of the future and the challenges it will bring."

Campus 'showcase' for Niagara region

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

The Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake is a "showcase" for the Niagara region, said Tom Gauld, chair of Niagara College's Board of Governors.

Gauld said the fact the Glendale campus and the investment in it was approved by the present government despite economic restraints shows the confidence the government has in both the college and its management.

"It's one of the very few educational capital funding programs of that size," said Gauld, the president of Welland's Canadian Tire Acceptance Ltd.

Niagara College has been "very central" to the region, unlike colleges in Toronto or other metropolitan areas where they are one of many colleges or universities, he said.

"It's hard for them to play an important role in the economy and in the community, or a central one in the way that Niagara College does."

The campus being central to the region helps the college to build on its ability to help develop the economy, he said.

"I think it (Glendale) is a showcase for the region."

Gauld said the close proximity of the campus to the local vineyards will help to build the reputation of such things as the horticultural school.

One of the key strategies is to make the college more accessible and inviting.

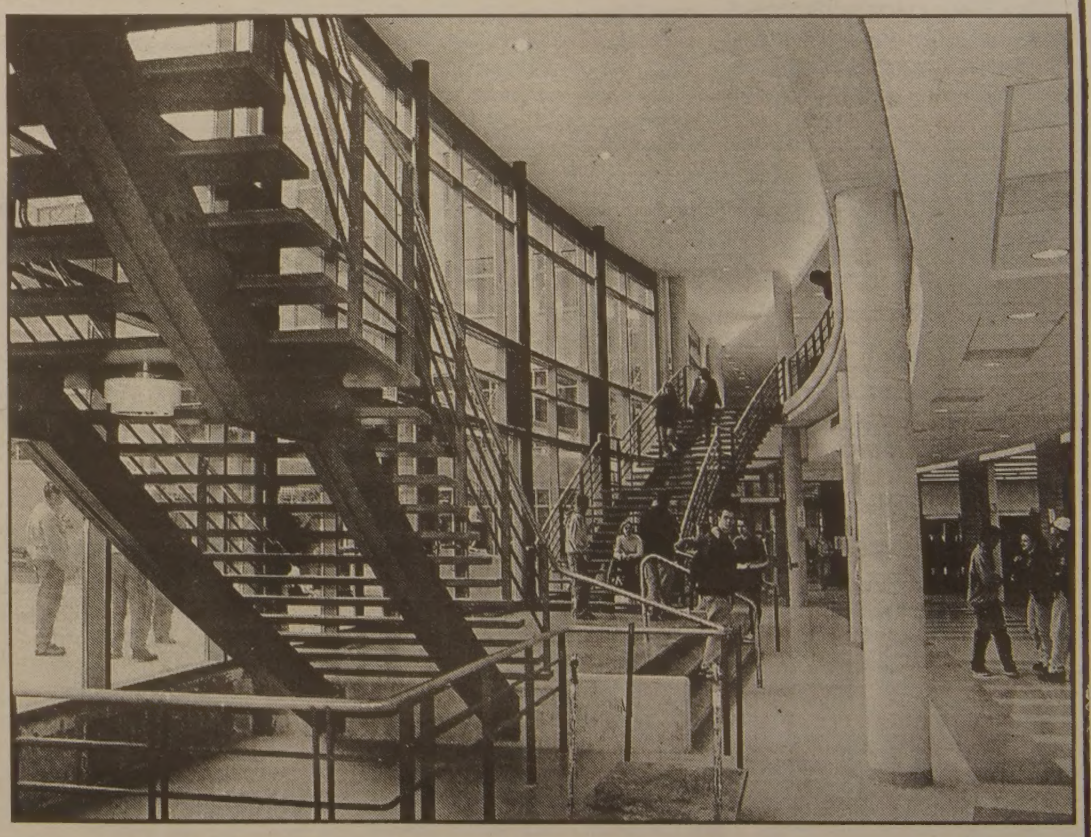
He said he thinks the college has been successful in doing this because it is central and "clearly inviting," so it will attract students not only from the region but also from outside the region as well, adding this is due to the quality of the facility and the environment they are building.

The college helps the region economically by working with different companies and industries to help them with training programs and to provide consulting services, he said.

"It (the college) provides an educated workforce for the Niagara region.

"If we turn out well-educated students with a high-quality education, that in turn will help the region to prosper."

Glendale's stairway to success



This stairway signifies the road to success at Niagara College's Glendale campus. The Glendale campus was designed by Moffat Kinoshita Architects Inc.

Photo by Aaron Beaudoin

Glendale Campus

Opportunity for students at new site

68-acre site at the base of Niagara Escarpment

By MÉLANIE BLAIS
Staff Writer

Niagara College's Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake is preparing for the challenges of the future.

Among the facilities available for students is a living laboratory for the Environmental and Horticultural programs. It will be one of the sites the public is welcome to tour during the campus open house Oct. 24 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The 68-acre site is located at the base of the Niagara Escarpment.

Students from the Horticultural Technician and Landscape Technician programs will participate in the research, planning and development of the living laboratory.

The storage barn at the Glendale campus is almost completed. It's located southeast of the main building.

Photo by Mélanie Blais

When completed, the living laboratory will include greenhouses, formal gardens, interpretive gardens, the arboretum, and vineyard and agricultural features. Nature trails, community gardens, gazebos, and seating and display areas will be part of the living laboratory.

The site will provide an opportunity for students and the surrounding community to be involved in experimentation, observation and environmental monitoring for years to come.

Eventually, the campus will be encased in an ecological band of wetlands, interpretive themed gardens, nurseries, walkways, meadows, orchards, a greenhouse, community gardens and an experimental vineyard.

Construction on the 25,000-square-foot greenhouse complex has yet to begin. Once complete, the greenhouse will have state-of-the-art climate-control systems as well as a teaching lab and classroom.

An additional development for the living laboratory will be the header house and storage barn. The house will showcase a horticultural retail outlet and office space.

'Business canvas' helps reach $58-million goal

Partnerships are crucial

By BARBARA DODDY
Staff Writer

It's money that makes the world go round, and it's got to come from somewhere.

It's no different at Niagara College.

Chris Blake, executive director of the Niagara College Foundation, the college's money-raising arm, looks for money wherever he can find it.

"All together at the college between 1995 and the year 2000, we will have spent a total of $58 million," says Blake, adding the funds will have been spent on buildings and renovations between the Welland campus and the new Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Blake says sometimes "we talk too much" about the Glendale campus in terms of the money being spent by the college, but a lot of money is also being spent on the Welland campus.

When the $58 million is examined, about $32 million is coming from the province, about $6 million is being raised with the Niagara: The Next Century Capital Campaign, and about $6 million on the new Student Residence and a few other arrangements with businesses in the private sector.

"The other $7 million comes from cost savings," says Blake, such as the lease on the Horticulture building on Niagara Street in St. Catharines "we will no longer be using."

The college is in the process of raising $6 million through the capital campaign. About $4 million has been raised so far with another $2 million left to go.

"Mostly, we have been going to the businesses and industries in the Niagara region with whom the college has established relationships," says Blake.

That includes the college's alumni, organizations that employ Niagara College graduates, as well as with present and past Niagara College staff members and employees.

They are all sort of clients of the college, says Blake, adding he likes to look at it as a "business canvas" of the Niagara region, which involved major donations from the Maid of the Mist Corporation in Niagara Falls and Niagara Waste Systems/Walker Industries.

"There are all different elements that go into the campaign."

Blake says the first half of the fund-raising has been the easiest, raising funds for the Glendale campus, which started in late 1994.

However, it's been a bit of an unstable road at times.

Funding given by one provincial government party while in power was halted when another party came into power. After being reviewed, the funding was deemed "a good idea" and given the go ahead, says Blake.

"Of all the capital projects in the province, ours was the only one reconfirmed at its original level. So I've become fond of saying this is the only project in the history of the world that Bob Rae and Mike Harris agree on."

About $37 million is being spent at the new Glendale campus.

The new campus houses the Centre for Environmental Training, Horticulture Centre, Centre for Integrated Manufacturing, Niagara College's School of Business, Centre for International Trade, Centre for Enterprise, Innovation Centre, Access Programming and Continuing Education.

At at time when government and other spending isn't always accounted for, Niagara College is making sure that the public, its students and its partners know exactly where their money is going, says Blake.

Living laboratory for students at Glendale campus

New centres and features will be available

By MÉLANIE BLAIS
Staff Writer

Technological, business and post-graduate advancement are in store at Niagara College's new Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

New centres and features such as the Centre for Environmental Training, the Horticulture Centre, the Centre for Integrated Manufacturing, Niagara College business division, the Centre for International Trade, the Centre for Enterprise, the Innovation Centre, Access Programming and continuing education will soon be available.

The Centre for Environmental Training will provide a living laboratory for the students as well as the community. The centre will allow students to research, plan and develop the 68-acre living laboratory.

The Horticulture Centre, which is part of the living laboratory, will include a 25,000-square-foot greenhouse complex, a teaching lab and classroom.

Programs such as Computerized Numerical Control, Computer Aided Design and Computer Aided Manufacturing will benefit from a unique facility for advanced training, applied research and innovation and employer partnerships.

The Integrated Manufacturing facility allows companies to explore new processes, manufacturing practices and equipment.

The Centre for Enterprise, known as Ventures, offers customized training programs, business leadership training and consulting services to regional organizations. The centre will have its own entrance and schedule of activities.

The Labour Studies program and Health and Safety studies will be based in the Innovation Centre.

Access Programming is another feature available at the Glendale campus. It can help individuals better cope with their jobs or prepare them for post-graduate studies.

Daytime, evening or weekend classes will be available for individuals wanting to take continuing education courses. The Open Learning Centre will enable continuing education students from Grimsby to Fort Erie to pursue their studies throughout the year.

A community open house will be held at the Glendale campus Oct. 24 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Glendale Campus

Public's curiosity satisfied by open house

By AMY KAAL
Staff Writer

Niagara College's new Glendale campus will be showcased during an open house Oct. 24.

Martha Casson, vice-president of enterprise and service development at Niagara College, says the open house at the campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake is "going to be a showcase of the campus, but it's going to be also of Niagara College."

Casson says, "I think the first thing they can expect is to have their curiosities satisfied about what they've been driving by for the past year."

Casson says what she wants people to take away is that Niagara is a "regional college with three very sophisticated delivery points," meaning three different campuses.

The entire college will participate in the open house with each program having demonstrations. Visitors "will have an opportunity for tours of the campus," Casson said.

Glendale offers three major services: the Ventures/Employment Services, Innovation Centre, School for Business and Entrepreneurship and the School for Environmental Training and Horticultural.

Construction at the Glendale campus isn't finished, but Casson says "all of the safety things have been dealt with."

She says the Horticultural Technician (Co-op) and Landscaping Technician (Co-op) programs are not at the Glendale campus yet because of unfinished construction on the greenhouse.

The student pub, gym, cafeteria, game machines and the Student Administrative Council (SAC) offices will be ready in time for the open house. SAC at the Glendale campus will work with the two other campus SAC offices in Welland and Niagara Falls.

Casson says some of the earlier problems in construction were due to government delays.

"The project was put on hold when the New Democratic Party (NDP) and Conservative government changed.

"It was approved as an NDP government initiative. The land was purchased, the shovels were in the ground, (then) the election was held, (and Mike) Harris changed everything."

She says the college had to go back to the Harris government and "pitch it."

Enrolment is good, as there are 1,600 students at the Glendale campus.

Casson says she hopes this number will double in three years, adding she hopes housing development in the area will become more popular.

The college and the University of Guelph have devised a 25-year plan for the college. It includes construction of a residence, development of vineyards, a recreation area, walking trails, aboriginal healing gardens and an Oriental garden.

Casson says she wants to "showcase this campus (Glendale) as one of the tourism sites of the region."

"We are all simply locations of the whole, very much three pieces in a pie," says Casson.

There is "real pride" in opening this campus, says Casson.

The open house, to which the public is welcome, is Saturday, Oct. 24, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Doors are open, come see us now

By BARBARA DODDY
Staff Writer

After watching it grow for months, the public is about to get a chance to see what it's all about.

Niagara College's Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake will open its doors in a three-day "open house" that starts Oct. 21.

On Wednesday from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., the new campus will host a party for all retired and employed staff members of the college.

"It's sort of an informal reception, an in-house celebration for the opening," says Chris Blake, executive director of the Niagara College Foundation.

Official opening ceremonies will be held at 4:30 p.m. Thursday.

Business leaders, government officials and others who have helped to "build" this new campus will gather for a ribbon-cutting ceremony, as well as other related events.

"We have invited representatives from the province, major fund-raisers, the premier and the minister of education," says Blake.

But they are "still trying to work out schedules" with the premier's office and ministry.

"Certainly both, or one, or either of those guys will be here," says Blake. "Either Dave Johnson or Mike Harris, maybe both."

Between 400 and 500 people are expected for the ceremony.

A reception will follow in the cafeteria with food prepared by the staff and students of the Maid of the Mist Hospitality Centre in Niagara Falls.

Blake says it's a way for them (the Maid of the Mist campus) to "share in the festivities."

Oct. 24 will be the community open house from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at which all college programs will participate.

"All the departments will be putting on lectures, demonstrations and displays—and it's the whole college," says Blake.

The tours of the facility will be "self-guided." Raffles and giveaways will take place throughout the day.

"It gives people a chance to wander around, check out the greenhouses, and take a walk to the lagoon area behind where we will be doing experimentation with the horticulture department," says Blake.

International students will be on hand with displays about their native countries. Food demonstrations will be given by the Maid of the Mist Centre and its students.

There will be signs and maps to help visitors find their way to the parts of the campus of most interest to them.

"We just want all the folks of the Niagara Region to come out and see us," says Blake.

To reach the Glendale campus take the Glendale Avenue exit off the Queen Elizabeth Way.

'. . . come out and see us.'
— Chris Blake

Memories live on in display

Hoping to see lots of people at open house

By ROSEMARY BARTLETT
Staff Writer

If all 21,000 invitations are accepted by the college's alumni graduations, parking at this month's open house at the new Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake is going to extend into St. Catharines.

Niagara College's Foundation office is gearing up for the event on Oct. 24 by setting up an Alumni Meet and Greet area from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Room W113.

College yearbooks and memorabilia will be on display.

Liz Palmieri, development associate at Glendale, said she "hopes to see a lot of people" come to the event.

Part of the foundation's responsibilites is maintaining the alumni database and offering alumni services.

"Very few departments keep track of their alumni," she says.

Those departments that do keep lists of their alumni share their files with the foundation office.

"It's hard to find women graduates, particularly from the 1970s and 1980s, because many women change their name when they get married."

The college's "biggest challenge" is to find alumni from 1969 to 1978 because the college wasn't computerized at that time, says Palmieri.

Although efforts are being made to input old records, "those are truly our lost alumni," she says, adding efforts to update the database have included a post-card campaign that netted about 700 responses.

A survey is included in this month's NCOMPASS magazine, Niagara College's alumni publication. The survey asks for input from alumni as to what services the foundation can provide to graduates and what services alumni are willing to give to help the college, as well as a request for updated personal information.

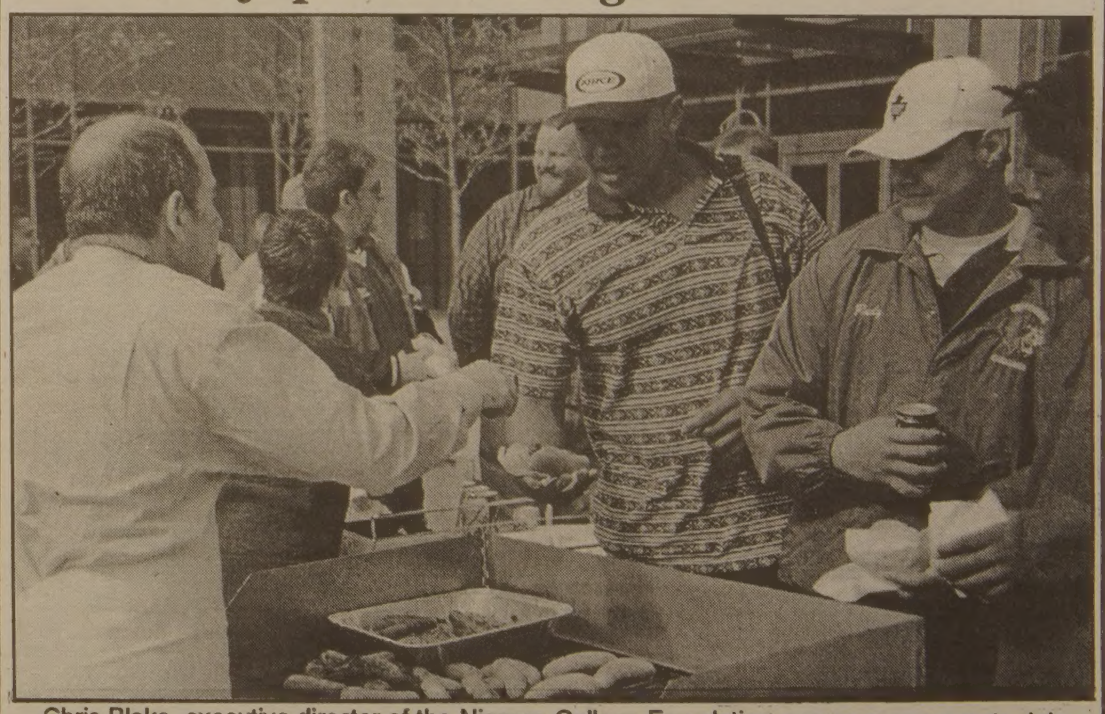
Palmieri says she "hopes" alumni will take the time to fill out the survey and return it to the foundation.

"It's an interesting search. You get a little high when you've finally found one of your alumni."

There will be a computer with the database on-line in the Alumni Meet and Greet area and alumni are encouraged to update the foundation's records with current information. There will be alumni on hand as hosts, and refrigerator magnets will be handed out to the first 1,000 alumni "just as a little thank you for coming," says Palmieri.

The Glendale campus is located off the QEW at the Glendale exit at Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Students flip over sausages

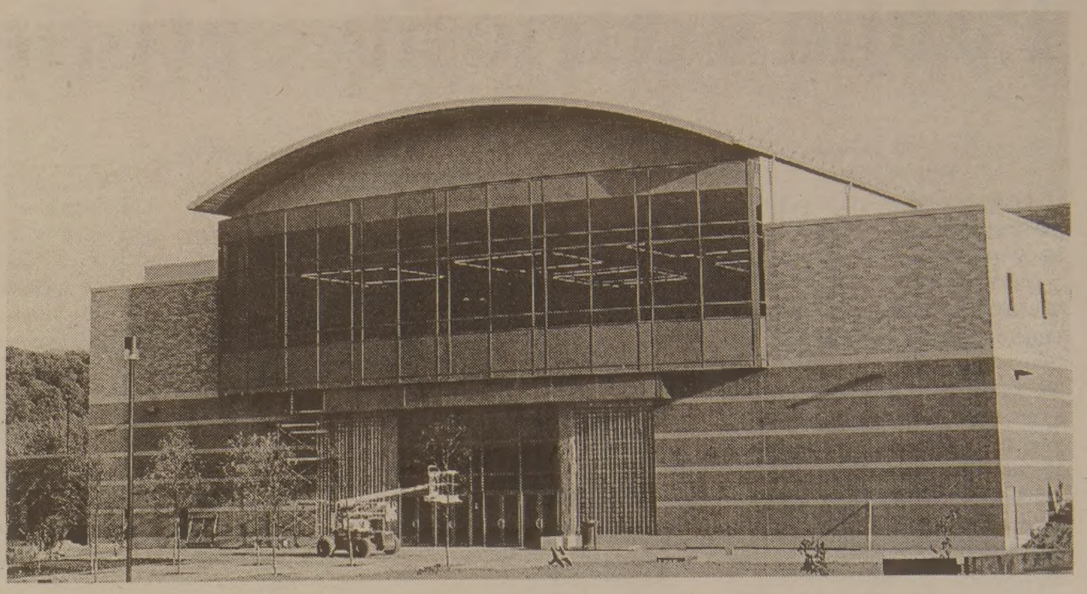


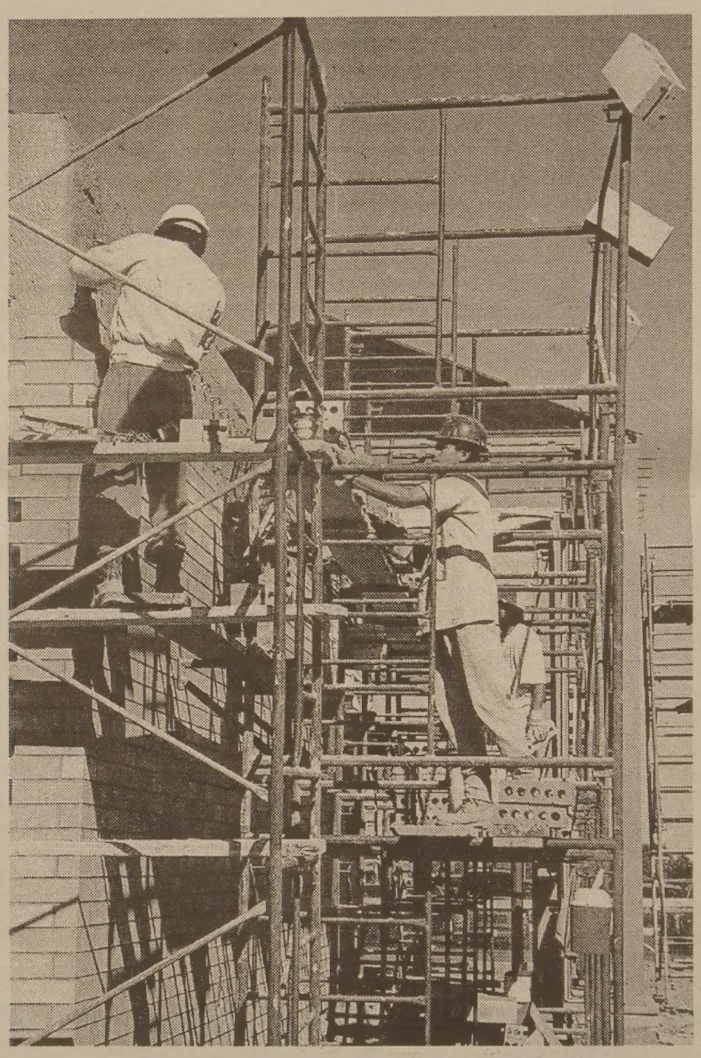
Chris Blake, executive director of the Niagara College Foundation, serves a sausage to John Zanutto, 23, a first-year student in the Business Administration program, at a barbeque at the Glendale campus on Oct. 4.

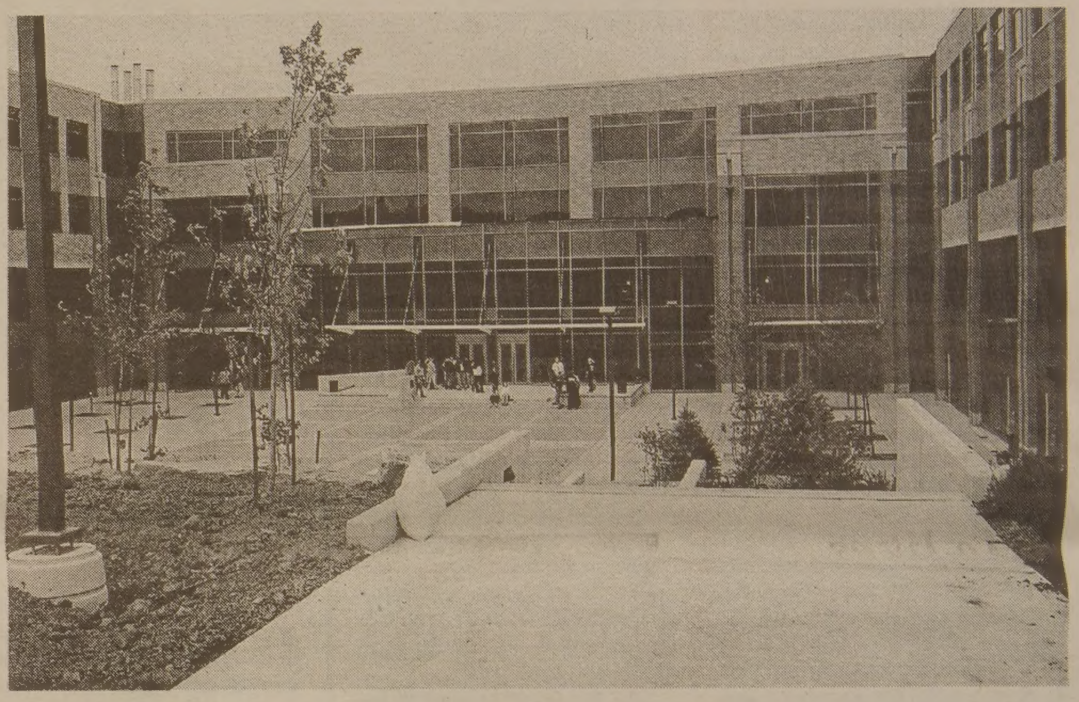
Photo by Rosemary Bartlett

Glendale Campus

Glendale Rising







Photographs by:
- *Rosemary Bartlett*
- *Aaron Beaudoin*

International

Niagara develops relationship with Chile

Nice Canadian people

By MUN-HEE SHIN
Staff Writer

A group of 30 directors from various universities throughout Chile came to Canada to visit the Niagara region and Niagara College.

They arrived on Oct. 6 and left Oct. 10.

"The purpose of their visit is to create global opportunities for students and to assist companies in the Niagara region in exporting to Chile," said Theo Ward, 28, of St. Catharines, international project assistant in the International Trade program at the Glendale campus.

Santo Tomas University in Chile is in a partnership with Niagara College to set up an international trade research network.

They are here to learn about the Niagara region and to meet with the college staff about creating a trade network with students.

Patrisio Munoz, 49, of Chile, president of Santo Tomas University, said they have a project to work with Niagara College and an agreement to exchange students and programs.

On Oct. 10 they signed an agreement with the college to highlight the fact that one Niagara College student is going to Chile in November and work for the university in Chile to develop the network.

"One of the people at the college will be working for them, which is a big step in developing the trade network," said Ward.

The Chileans stayed at the Sheraton Fallsview Hotel in Niagara Falls for four days.

They came to the Welland campus on Oct. 8 and toured Broadcasting—Radio, Television and Film program facilities, the gym, After Hours, the Student Administrative Council office, the student cafeteria and, lastly, the International Education Department office.

Astrid Poller, 48, of Chile, vice-president of Santo Tomas University, said she was most impressed with "the organization of the project and (the) nice Canadian people."

Thirty Chilean directors tour the Welland campus with Theo Ward, international project assistant (left) and Carolyn Ambrose, English as a Second Language teacher (right).
Photo by Mun-Hee Shin

Three Nations meet in ESL

He likes grammar the best

By JACKIE FIELD
Staff Writer

This is a first to remember.

Angela Botero, 28, from Colombia, Alexander Hilka, 17, from Odessa, Ukraine, and Reiko Hara, 29, from Japan, are all experiencing Canadian culture for the first time.

All three English as a Second Language (ESL) program students are learning English. They arrived in Canada at the beginning of September within days of one another.

"I was nervous about coming alone," said Botero, adding she wants to visit places such as Niagara-on-the-Lake, St. Catharines and Niagara Falls.

Hilka said he knew no one when he came, but has visited Niagara Falls and liked the Maid of the Mist, a tour boat operating in Niagara Falls.

"I was very, very nervous just before I left Japan," said Hara. "I didn't want to go, but I'm glad I came."

She said she wants to visit Toronto while she's here.

Hara said she wanted to go to school in the United States or Canada, but decided to attend Niagara College because the "school fees (are) cheaper."

"People from all around the world are in Canada," said Hara, adding she lives in the school residence, unlike Hilka who lives with a host family.

Visiting Canada for the first time are, from left, Angela Botero, 28, from Colombia, Alexander Hilka, 17, from Odessa, Ukraine and Reiko Hara, 29, from Japan.
Photo by Jackie Field

Botero said she lives with a host family in Welland, and chose to come to Canada because "it's a beautiful country and somebody I knew told me about it."

All three say English can be hard to learn, but they like school.

Hilka said he "likes grammar the best."

Botero said she "likes school," but finds learning English hard. She began learning the language five years ago.

Hara said she will stay for eight months, adding she originally decided to come to Niagara for a post-graduate program.

She said she wanted to study in the Special Event Management program, but the International Education office told her it was "better to enter ESL and then pick a course after."

Outside of college, Hilka said he "likes to take walks and listen to music." He enjoys the Beatles and the Eagles.

Hara said she listens to music as well, but "doesn't like rap music." She "loves to downhill ski and play baseball." In Japan, she played baseball for 10 years.

Botero said she "likes sports," such as playing basketball, volleyball and bowling "just for fun."

Hara said when she returns to Japan she'll marry her boyfriend of almost one year.

Botero said she plans on obtaining a master's degree in business administration when she returns to Colombia.

Hilka, Botero, and Hara say they miss their families, but Hara says she's "glad she came."

Students wanted

By MUN-HEE SHIN
Staff Writer

He is another promoter working for Niagara College.

Alex Gomez Rodriguez, 25, of Mexico, who recently graduated from the University of Mexico, is searching for students, from various Mexican cities, who are interested in coming to Canada.

"I came here to get some information about the programs such as English as a Second Language or post-secondary programs so that I can introduce Niagara College to Mexican students," said Rodriguez.

He said he has been trying to look for Mexican students who want to study at Niagara College and help create an interest in the college.

He arrived in Canada on Oct. 4.

Rodriguez said he was supposed to stay in Canada for two weeks, but will leave earlier because he has applicants to do work for in Mexico.

"Today, in Mexico, if they don't speak English, they are lost in getting a job," said Rodriguez.

"A lot of companies want to hire someone who can speak English and use a computer."

He said he met Craig Edwards in Mexico and came to know about Niagara College and its programs. Edwards is Niagara College's international projects consultant in the International Trade program at the Glendale campus.

"There are a lot of Mexican students who want to come to Canada and learn English," said Rodriguez.

Planning promotional projects to attract Mexican students to Niagara are, at left, Craig Edwards, international project consultant and Alex Gomez Rodriguez, of Mexico.
Photo by Mun-Hee Shin

News Across Niagara

Niagara, Brock reaching goal together

Joined together heading for a common goal

By TYLER-LEIGH ROBINSON
Staff Writer

The United Way challenge at Niagara College is in full swing.

"Let the campaign and competition begin," said Niagara College President Dan Patterson as he helped kick off a challenge between Niagara and Brock University in St. Catharines for the United Way of South Niagara.

Niagara and Brock are going head-to-head in a challenge encouraging staff and students to increase their participation in the United Way campaign.

The goal each educational facility is striving for this year is five per cent more, which means about 15 new pledge donors from each school.

Patterson and Brock University President David Atkinson kicked off the challenge on Oct. 1 at Turner's Corners in Thorold.

The two presidents climbed into a car, donated by Niagara College, that had two front ends to illustrate the saying for the challenge *Joined Together Heading for a Common Goal.*

The two front ends of the car were positioned to have one way facing Niagara and the other facing Brock.

The presidents then offered a few words of encouragement to the members of the United Way.

Atkinson said the challenge was important for Niagara and Brock to be involved in a friendly rivalry to help raise money for the campaign.

The school winning the challenge will fly its school flag on the opposing school's campus.

Patterson said the staff and students need to rally around the goal and put every effort into the challenge to come out on top and prevent Brock from flying its flag on all three of Niagara's campuses.

The presidents then returned to their own schools with a police escort to continue the rally.

At Niagara, Manny Fast, executive director for the United Way, spoke to Patterson and the college planning team about "the important role" the United Way plays in the community.

"I want to thank the college staff, students and canvassers. Without you we wouldn't be able to raise as many dollars as we have in the community."

United Way

of

South Niagara

Fast said the 1998 campaign has had one of the quickest starts ever, but it will still be short in dollars needed to help every agency.

The United Way has had to reprioritize and focus on the agencies that need the donations the most, such as those agencies that provide food, housing and health services.

Fast said the money donated and raised for the agencies is "never wasted" and is used to help "benefit the community."

Niagara College's goal is $19,000 with $17,800 coming from college employees, and $1,200 donated by the students.

"Together we care and you can count on Niagara College to care," said Patterson, as he urged the members and canvassers to become "actively involved" in the challenge.

The college planning team consists of Trish Labonte and Nicole Perreault, as the two co-chairs, as well as 30 canvassers who will seek donations from college staff.

The planning team said they hope to reach the goal through fund-raisers held by the students in the Human Relations program, such as bake sales, auctions and raffles.

The challenge finishes at the end of October. Niagara will announce the amount raised on Nov. 6 to see which educational facility will get to fly its flag for the United Way.

David Atkinson (left in car) and Dan Patterson pose with Elmer the Safety Elephant and the school mascots for the United Way.
Photo by Tyler-Leigh Robinson

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Entertainment

Planet Smashers begin Canadian tour

By LESLEY WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

Montreal's Planet Smashers began a 4 1/2-week cross-Canada tour Sept. 16 at the Fratt House, marking the latest of their numerous St. Catharines performances.

Tourmates Flashlight, of Toronto, and openers, the Skankin' Urinals, of St. Catharines, entertained the medium-sized crowd with competent sets blending ska music with the high-octane energy of pop-punk.

Wearing matching bowling shirts, the five members of Planet Smashers performed with style and skill, keeping the dancers skanking and grooving to original songs in England's 2Tone musical style. They paid tribute to Jamaican legend Prince Buster with a crowd-pleasing rendition of *Enjoy Yourself (It's Later Than You Think)*.

Formed in 1993, the Planet Smashers are an independent ska band with two compact discs, songs on several compilation albums and numerous U.S. and Canadian tours to their credit.

Their latest campus radio chart-topping disc, *Attack of the Planet Smashers*, released in 1997 on Montreal's Stomp! Records, was produced by Chris Murray, former frontman for Toronto's King Apparatus.

Montreal's Planet Smashers recently performed at the Fratt House in St. Catharines to start their tour across Canada.
Photo by Leslie Williams

Highlights of the band's five-year career include appearing alongside Buffy Ste. Marie in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, and shooting the video for their song *Mission: Aborted* on the set of *The X-Files*.

Bassist Dave Cooper, 26, explains the extent of their involvement with Stomp! Records.

"We founded it. We weren't prepared to sit around and wait for people to come to us, so we decided to generate our own interest by taking it into our own hands and starting a label."

"We're now distributed by Moon Ska in the United States and we are also Moon Ska Canada," says singer-guitarist Matt Collyer, 27.

"After this tour we're going to be working on a new album, starting in November. It would be out by April."

"We've been touring since mid-July," says tenor saxophonist Leon Kingstone, 28.

The Planet Smashers, whose line-up includes drummer Tim Doyle, 19, and trombonist Kurt Ruschiensky, 20, have played benefit concerts for Anti-Racist Action and other community-based groups.

"We did one for Bon Dieu de la Rue, which is a French organization that feeds homeless kids in Montreal," says Collyer.

"It's organized by Cardinal Leger, in Montreal," says Kingstone. "He has a camper that he drives around in, and he feeds people on the street, warms them up and stuff."

Collyer says major-label acts releasing ska records and ska music's hype is the "next big thing."

"Ska's always been an underground culture, music that had a specific sort of following, so people who like it are always going to like it, and it just so happens to be in a few of the punk rock kids' music collections now. The waning fans, they'll move onto something else, but there still will be the 2Tone rudeboy scene happening."

An alternative sound at After Hours

By CHRISTINE MORGAN
Staff Writer

After Hours became an "alternative bar" when Benjamin's Tribe and Echelon performed on Oct. 2.

The event was a non-alcoholic, non-profit party at the Welland campus pub.

Benjamin's Tribe will be the After Hours houseband, meaning they and a guest will perform the first Friday of every month during the school year.

Available to everyone during the night were 50-cent coffees from Tim Horton's and $2 all-you-can-eat Tofano's Pizza.

Prizes were given out during the night and included a rechargeable walkman, an AM/FM radio headset (both from Radio Shack) and a hair-cut certificate from Chique Hair Design.

Benjamin's Tribe, another Christian rock band, will be accompanied by a different group at each performance. The next concert is set for Nov. 6 at 8 p.m. with guest Static.

Benjamin's Tribe performing at After Hours Oct. 2.
Photo by Christine Morgan

Rare glimpse of films offered

By MELINDA SPURVEY
Staff Writer

Movie lovers take note. Every Sunday night until Nov. 29, the film is rolling.

The fifth annual Brock University Film Society (BUFS) has an impressive selection of international films being showcased at the Town Cinemas at 280 St. Paul St. in St. Catharines.

BUFS programs classic and contemporary films, many of which would otherwise not be seen in the Niagara region.

Barry Grant, director of the film studies program at Brock University, says the concept behind the film society was created by members of the university's film faculty who later organized the series.

"In the past it started as the International Film Series and we showed 16mm films at Brock, but, as you know, 16mm prints have virtually disappeared and new films were not being struck in 16mm, so we were forced to go to 35mm and then we established a relationship with the Town Cinemas."

Acclaimed Canadian director Guy Maddin opened the society's season on Sept. 20 with his film *Twilight of the Ice Nymphs*.

Grant says the film was chosen because it emphasizes present day Canadian cinema.

"I saw Guy Maddin present this film at the Toronto festival last year, and he impressed me as a witty and articulate speaker, and I thought he would be ideal to invite to start the series this year."

Grant attends the Toronto Film Festival to view films and is busy compiling a list of possibilities for the next BUFS season, which begins in January.

"I'm looking at films, for example, the re-cut version of *Touch of Evil* by Orson Welles and also several Japanese films that I saw at the Toronto festival, so I've got a list of 10 already and in November we will be checking if they are available."

The annual BUFS membership fee is $20 or two for $35. Membership provides reduced admission to all screenings and discounts from 10 downtown merchants. The cost of non-member tickets for individual films is $6.

Memberships can be obtained from the Box Office at the Centre for the Performing Arts at Brock, by telephoning 688-5550 ext. 3257/3338 and also from the Town Cinemas.

Grant says out of the group of films being screened by the society he recommends the last feature of the season.

"I haven't seen all of them. Some of them I have just read about, but out of those I have seen, I think it's probably the least critically acclaimed and that's *Ma Vie En Rose*. I think it's a fascinating movie."

Entertainment

Atwood shares experiences with audience

By ROSEMARY BARTLETT
Staff Writer

PORT COLBORNE — There was a Margart Atwood sighting in Port Colborne on Oct. 6.

Margaret Atwood, winner of the Giller prize in 1996 for her novel *Alias Grace*, answered questions, shared passages from her critically acclaimed book and read a playful poem to about 300 people who had come to see the genius behind the pen.

Alias Grace

Her opening remarks were directed towards accounting firms such as Grant Thornton, an international chartered accounting and management consulting firm with offices across Canada. The company was the sponsor for the Canadian Authors' Series, which invited Atwood to the Roselawn Complex.

"It's a fallacy that accountants are dull," she said. "They have to appear that way, of course; otherwise, people wouldn't come to them."

Speaking in a narrative voice interspersed with wit and humour, Atwood recounted the events behind the true story of the double murder that took place in Richmond Hill in 1843.

She said Richmond Hill at that time was "quite a long travel from Toronto. For a while it was quite a short travel from Toronto, and now it's quite a long travel from Toronto," linking that statement to her own difficulities getting out of Toronto's traffic to get to the evening's reading.

"I apologize for being a few minutes late."

Atwood said she "first read about this story" in Susanna Moodie's book called *Life in the Clearings*. Moodie was a writer in the mid 1800s who wrote about life in, what was then, Upper Canada (Ontario).

"I was taken with this story because the way she (Moodie) wrote it read like a Victorian piece of theatre."

In the early 1970s, Atwood said she "wrote a little television piece based on Suzanne Moodie's version." Soon after, she tried to write a play, but "I'm not a playwright," she said, adding, it wasn't until "years later when I was in a hotel room in Zurich that I began writing this story. . . I didn't, at first, know what the book was, but then I thought this must be Grace Martin (*Alias Grace*)."

Alias Grace is Atwood's 36th book. Her works includes three non-fiction books, four children's books, five books of short-fiction, 15 books of poetry and nine novels. Besides the Giller Prize, Atwood has taken home the Trillium Award for *The Robber Bride* and the Governor General's award for *The Handmaid's Tale*.

Margaret Atwood autographs copies of her book.
Photo by Rosemary Bartlett

Atwood is working on a new project, but when asked what it was about, she said, "I never answer that question."

The audience giggled at Atwood's reply when asked what she would like to do outside of writing literature.

"I want to be an opera singer.

Singing with Robertson Davies

"I sang a duet with Robertson Davies at one of the PEN benefits and people said, 'Don't quit your day job.' Graeme (her husband) put it in a very nice way. He said, 'It's amazing what pleasure people get from watching a person that does something else very well do another thing quite badly.'"

Atwood and her husband, writer Graeme Gibson, were instrumental in founding the Writers' Union of Canada and the English Canadian Centre for PEN, an international organization devoted to fighting for writers whose rights have been violated and who are prisoners of conscience.

"We know that we have gotten a number of people out (of prison), and we know that we have probably saved the lives of people who otherwise would have just disappeared, and we have found people who had thought to have disappeared. We've had some awful, awful failures and that can be devastating, very devastating."

Atwood signed copies of her books in the lounge following the reading for more than an hour.

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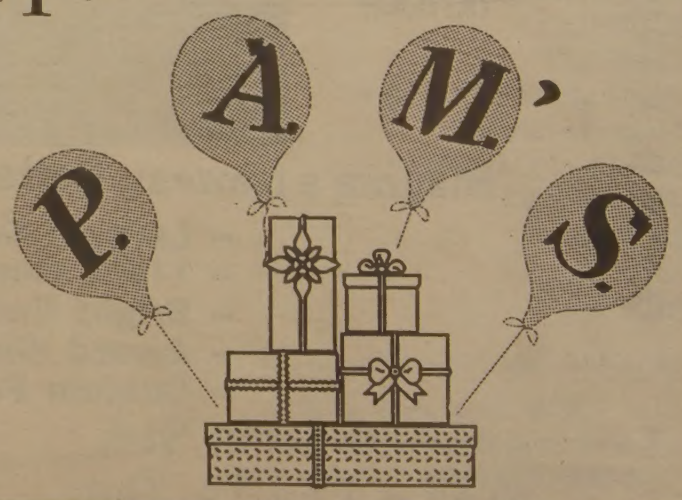

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News Across Niagara

Wine industry supports local exhibit

St. Catharines Muesum has exhibit until Nov. 15

By MELINDA SPURVEY
Staff Writer

Cheers.

Finally an exhibit on the history of wine within the Niagara region.

The St. Catharines Museum at Lock Three, 1932 Government Rd., has unveiled its newest exhibit entitled *Vintage Niagara: Sampling Our Grape and Wine Heritage*. The exhibit is filled with fascinating artifacts tracing the development of the wine industry within the region.

Arden Phair, curator of collections, says the exhibit has been made possible by the support of key figures within the industry.

"One person who used to be the chief winemaker for Jordan Wines has donated a major collection of bottles, cooper's tools and other memorabilia from Jordan's, Jordan's at that time being the second largest winery in Canada."

Phair says there are a number of interesting pieces in the exhibit.

"There is a licence issued to Donald Ziraldo and Karl Keiser when Inniskillen Wines was formed."

He says the museum exhibit needed to be put together not only for historical purposes but also for educational purposes too.

"It really affected the bridges, the history of the past, with what a dynamic industry we have today. Part of it is Niagara and our award-winning wines. Our wineries are going to these international competitions and they are walking away with golds."

Although the collection is at the museum till Nov. 15 there is a possibility the collection may travel to other museums or wineries across Ontario.

"It's the biggest wine exhibit that has ever been mounted on the history of the industry. We have had good response from people coming in. Our hope is to package it and make it a travelling exhibit," says Phair, adding without the support of the many people involved, this would be nothing more than a idea.

"It's through them and their support that we have been able to make this possible, so people should come out and learn about their grape and wine heritage."

For more information and admission prices contact the museum at (905) 984-8880.

Award-winning Niagara wine on display as part of the St. Catharines Museum's newest exhibit entitled Vintage Niagara: Sampling Our Grape and Wine Heritage.

Photo by Melinda Spurvey

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Classified

Everything's easier when students help students

Peer Services

By JACKIE FIELD
Staff Writer

It's called a helping hand.

The Peer Services Department at Niagara College is available to all students.

The main service offered through the department is peer tutoring.

This is a service where one student helps another student experiencing difficulty in a particular course.

To apply for a tutor or if you're looking to become one, you fill out an application at the Peer Services office and explain what type of help you would like, or what you want to tutor in. Generally within one week you will be paired with someone.

To qualify for a tutor, students must be:

- confused about a subject.
- below an acceptable grade level.
- experiencing difficulty even though they attend class regularly.

To qualify as a peer tutor, students should:

- have above average marks (80 per cent or better).
- have a desire to help others.

Peer tutors earn $7 an hour, with a maximum of 10 hours a week. Tutors can only help students understand better, but they can't do the work for them.

The department receives financial assistance from the Ontario Student Assistance Program and the Student Administrative Council.

Pat Cicci, peer service facilitator at the Welland campus, said "(we) need them all year long, all the time," referring to tutors.

She said students using the program and peer tutors are up "slightly" from last year.

The main courses students are tutored in are math, computers, accounting and English, said Cicci, adding anyone who would qualify as a tutor is encouraged to do so.

If anyone is interested in becoming a tutor, or would like to apply for one, they should visit the:

- **Welland campus** — Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday between 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at SE102
- **Glendale campus** in Niagara-on-the-Lake — Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday between 9 a.m. and noon at W102
- **Maid of the Mist Centre** in Niagara Falls — at the Co-op Office during office hours.

For any further information contact the Peer Services Department at your campus.

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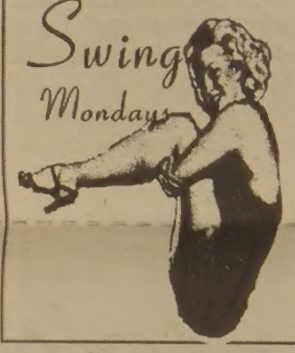
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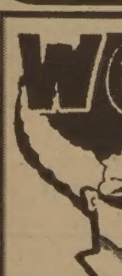
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Sports

Varsity, intramural sports available to all

Up-to-date fitness

By JEFF BOLAN
Staff Writer

There is more to college than classes and books.

The athletic department would like to provide students "with an opportunity to get away from the books and ease the mind, to keep fit, to socialize and make friends," said Ray Sarkis, who oversees varsity and intramural sports at Niagara College as the assistant to the director of student services.

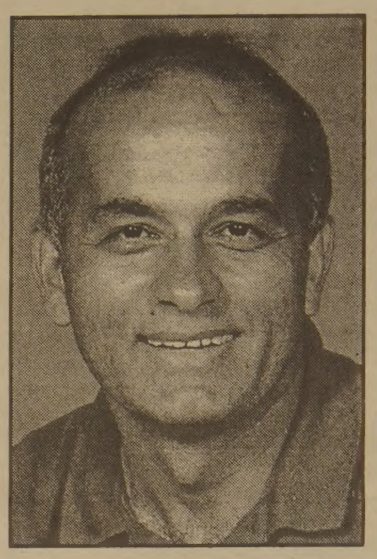
This year there are 11 varsity teams students can try out for, including badminton, curling, golf, rugby, touch-football and men's and women's basketball, volleyball and soccer.

All equipment and travel expenses are covered by the Student Administrative Council (SAC). This year, SAC has allocated $74,800 toward the athletic budget.

Varsity sport allows "students an opportunity to compete at a higher level," said Sarkis.

The Niagara College Knights "had one of the best years ever last year" with eight teams making it to the provincial playoffs.

This year "expectations are high," Sarkis said, but "all we can ask is that they do their best, win or lose."



RAY SARKIS

"We have a great product," he said in reference to varsity sports. "We encourage students to come out and support us."

Admission to sporting events is $2 for students and $4 for adults, but there are numerous door prizes and contests during the games.

Intramural sports such as touch-football, co-ed indoor soccer, ice hockey, basketball and floor hockey are offered during the school year.

SAC recreation time is every Tuesday and Thursday from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Intramural sports "can be a lot of fun," he said.

If you are not interested in intramural sports, there is still plenty of opportunity for exercise. The gym facilities are open to anyone with a valid student card. Operating hours vary on a daily basis depending on the needs of the educational programs which use the gym and varsity team practice schedules.

There is an "up-to-date" fitness centre on the gym's second level. There is no charge to use the equipment. The centre is open Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the weekend.

Step-aerobic classes are held in the gym every Tuesday at 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. and Thursday at 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

If you have any questions regarding varsity or intramural sports, contact Ray Sarkis at 735-2211 ext. 7583.

Georgie Groat, left, in her first year as coach of the women's basketball team, will be looking to returning players such as Kristen Davies for leadership.

Photo by Lee Whitehead

College student captain of Junior 'C' hockey team

By ROSEMARY BARTLETT
Staff Writer

DUNNVILLE — The Dunnville Terriers' captain has playoff dreams.

Kellan Mowat, 17, of Dunnville, is the captain of the 1998-99 Dunnville's Junior 'C' franchise.

This is his second year playing for the team under the direction of head coach and father, Rick Mowat.

After missing the playoffs last season, Mowat, a first-year student in the Mechanical Engineering Technology (Co-op) program at Niagara College, says he wants to see the team finish higher in the standings than it has in recent years.

"We've got a a really good squad right now," says Mowat.

With 15 players back from last year's roster, the Terriers are in a far better position than at the start of the 1997-98 season. Last year, the Terriers were an inexperienced group with little in the way of Junior 'C' exposure.

"A year's experience (playing Junior 'C') sure shows right now," said Mowat.

An enthusiastic and energetic group of new players is also going to help, he said. "The younger rookies are going to help us quite a bit."

Results are what matter, though, said Mowat.

Tournament worries coach

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

Touch-football is unlike anything else.

Randy Conlon, co-coach of the Niagara Knights' touch-football team, says the experience of coaching has been exciting.

"It's fun," he says. "You're taking a sport that, probably every year, 50 per cent (of the players) have never played it before."

Conlon, 31, of St. Catharines, says he is in his sixth season of coaching the Knights' touch-football program.

"The guys are all athletes," he says, "but they've never played the game. It's different. It's unlike coaching anything else."

Conlon, who works at the college as the co-ordinator of liaison, says he has enjoyed his years as a coach, which has included three Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA) championships.

"The first one (1993) was the best because no one expected it of us. The second two, we had a superstar quarterback. He had won a championship at Mohawk (College) already. But the first one was really special because no one really expected us to do that well."

Conlon says his coaching philosophy is to make sure his players have fun, but show a commitment to the team as well.

"Being such a short season, with only one tournament, I want everyone to have a good time. At the same time, I expect the same commitment out of the players that I put in. If I'm here every night, they should be here every night.

"I have a family at home and I'm giving up my time. I know they're students and they're busy, too, but it's a short season. I expect to see commitment out of them."

Conlon says the most important thing he wants from his players is trust.

"Trust me and listen to me," he says.

Conlon says he hopes his players will listen to him in preparation for the OCAA tournament to be held this weekend at Mohawk College in Hamilton.

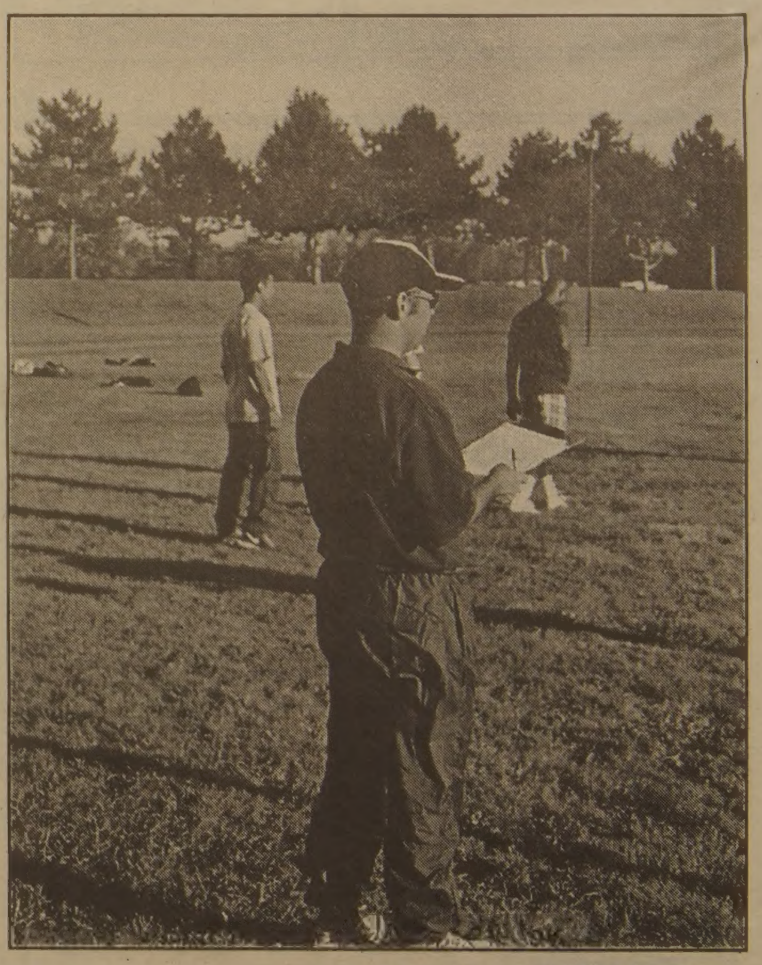
"Right now, I'm a little worried," he says. "I think these guys have no clue of what they're in for. They think that because they're athletes, they're going to get by."

Conlon says the biggest challenge will come from Mohawk.

"Mohawk's going to be really strong. The reason being, the city of Hamilton has a touch-football high school league. That's a huge advantage."

Conlon says despite the lack of experience, the Knights' goal is to win.

"I set the standards high. We did win three (golds) in a row, we've won two bronze so we haven't been unsuccessful. Third place isn't bad but we're going (to Hamilton) to win."



Randy Conlon, co-coach of the Knights' touch football team, surveys the scene on the field behind the Mackenzie building.

Photo by Lee Whitehead

Men's and women's basketball previews--next edition

Sports

Niagara athletics, something for everyone

By SHANNON PALOMAKI
Staff Writer

What's your game?

Whether it is basketball, volleyball, curling, rugby, touch football, badminton, soccer or golf, Niagara College has it.

Last year eight of the 10 varsity teams reached the provincial championships. The touch football team are three-time gold champions and have won the bronze medal the last two years.

This year, Niagara has some new faces in coaching, including George Groat in women's basketball, Keith Jones in rugby, and former three-time national champion Mark Nelson in curling.

All teams have been decided except for badminton, curling and indoor soccer.

Ray Sarkis, the college's assistant director of student services in varsity athletics, says "all programs are very strong. Coaches are spending more time in recruiting and more students are choosing college over university . . . making a very strong team athletically as well as academically."

The women's volleyball team played its first game against Niagara Community College, from outside of Buffalo, N.Y., and swept them in three games.

"They are a very outstanding team with a lot of depth and experience," says Sarkis.

On Oct. 5, the college's golf team went to the provincials hosted by Barrie's Georgian College.

"The team is co-ed, but no women came for the tryout," says Sarkis.

The Niagara Knights men's basketball team will be hosting Oakville's Sheridan College, the Ontario Colleges Athletics Association (OCAA) defending champions, on Oct. 17 at 2 p.m.

Sarkis says an "average of 250 to 350 fans come out for home games, but not many of them are students, but people from the community," adding the teams have "great calibre on the floor to showcase."

He says even with putting up banners, posters, schedules and having giveaways, door prizes and vouchers that "students don't seem to care, which is unfortunate."

On Oct. 27, there will be a meeting with representatives from the Student Residences to see what "athletics can do for them."

Sarkis says he "wants our students to come out and support our teams," adding with the $2 admission for students, athletics is not "making big money, only covering what they give away."

This year, Niagara College will be hosting the women's volleyball OCAA all-star game on Jan. 16, followed by the women's basketball team playing against Etobicoke's Humber College, as well as hosting the OCAA Regionals for curling on Feb. 4 and Feb. 5.

There are rules for joining a team. For example, athletes must hold a 60 per cent average, and if they are failing at mid-term, they will have "a meeting where they will be put in the right direction for help," says Sarkis. At the second term, if the athlete is still failing, the athlete is suspended from the athletic program.

The fitness room, in the Mackenzie building above the gymnasium, is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., and on Friday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and weekends from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sarkis says an average of "35 to 40 students come each evening."

"Nothing excites me more than seeing students using the facilities."

The department is looking into having outside memberships for the community.

Intramural sports is another part of life at Niagara. This is an area where "we want our students to take advantage of," says Sarkis.

Students can participate from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Currently, touch football and co-ed volleyball are being played.

Students can enter as a member or as a team. Registration for co-ed indoor soccer is Oct. 30. Games will begin Nov. 3.

Indoor lacrosse will possibly be played if more students request it.

As for ice hockey, Sarkis says students from the Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls and students from the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake are invited to join those from the Welland campus "because there is no arena available" for those from the two outside cities.

Students from the Maid of the Mist Centre are encouraged to purchase a YMCA membership. The college will cover 40 per cent of the cost.

Sarkis says the Athletic Department is looking for a person who is "very lively" and wants to make some money in a paid position as a mascot (the Niagara Knight) to attend all home games. If interested, contact Sarkis at 735-2211 at Ext. 7583.

Tennis anyone

By LARISSA KONDUSKY
Staff Writer

No money required.

Memberships are free for any full-time Niagara College student at the Welland Indoor Tennis Club on Niagara Street.

Peter Baker, president, says the free membership is what makes the club different.

"We're just a better club to belong to."

The court cost is $12 for one hour (student price).

Not a tennis pro?

The tennis club has instructional programs for every age, so anyone can learn.

If you can play already and like competition, the club offers "all kinds of leagues," says Baker.

Private lessons are also available from certified instructors.

The tennis club opened in 1981 and is non-profit.

It is open seven days a week and runs Oct. 1 to April 30.

No room for Collins

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

A promising career has been destroyed.

When the Buffalo Bills acquired quarterback Rob Johnson from Jacksonville in an off-season trade, it was apparent Todd Collins was no longer welcome.

Collins suffered through a horrible 1997 season as the Bills' starting quarterback and was under fire from the fans, media and even Bills' defensive end Bruce Smith.

However, Collins is not entirely responsible for his failure to become a big-league quarterback. The Buffalo Bills organization is to blame.

Collins was drafted in the second round out of the University of Michigan in 1996. Bills' general manager John Butler immediately proclaimed Collins as the next Jim Kelly, who led the Bills to four straight American Football Conference championships in the early 1990s.

Collins was under pressure before he even stepped onto the field.

He played adequately when Kelly was injured in 1996, leading Buffalo to victories over the Dallas Cowboys and Indianapolis Colts.

However, when Kelly retired and Collins became the starter in 1997, the turmoil began.

Offensive co-ordinator Tom Bresnahan was demoted to offensive line coach and replaced by Dan Henning. While the two coaches feuded all season, the team suffered.

The offensive line played pitifully and Collins was lost.

By the end of the year, his confidence had deteriorated to the point where his skills could no longer help him.

The finger has to be pointed at former head coach Marv Levy, who should have stopped the feud and forced Henning to help Collins become a professional quarterback.

Collins was cut by the Bills at the end of August and was signed by the Kansas City Chiefs.

With proper coaching, Collins could have developed into the quarterback capable of taking the Bills back to the Super Bowl. Unfortunately, he didn't receive the necessary guidance and lost his job in Buffalo.

Yankees' depth concern for opponents

By JEFF BOLAN
Staff Writer

The New York Yankees are a great team with good players.

There are no superstars in the current crop of Yankees, but there are an awful lot of very good baseball players.

Rarely has a team been so able at every position of play. When injuries happened, as they always do, players stepped up and played with heart, accepting the challenges ahead of them.

After winning an incredible 114 games this year the Yankees have proven they can win the marathon race of the regular season.

The win total is a frightening tally for an opponent to look at. As the Yankees' opponent, the worst part is knowing there is no one player a team can key on. Often in sports, if you beat the one key player, you've beaten the team. That won't work with this year's Yankees team.

When Bernie Williams, New York's only quasi-star, was injured during the season, the team kept winning at an outstanding pace.

The Yankees are so deep with talent any player on the team would be a starter on any other team in the league.

Every few years a team of destiny will walk onto the ball diamond. This year's Yankees team is one that will be in the memories of fans just like the long-ago days of Mickey Mantle, Lou Gehrig and Babe Ruth.

The only difference is that those three players were superstars. This year's Yankees team has reminded fans baseball is a team game.

The incredible feats of Mike McGwire and Cal Ripken aside, this Yankees team has done more for baseball than anything since the strike of 1994.

They have brought the magic back to the game and they deserve to win the World Series.

Not that any other team would be able to stop them.

Padres continue to defy odds

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

Who are these guys?

The San Diego Padres are in the World Series for the first time since 1984. Whether they win or lose, the Padres getting this far is unexpected.

Before the season started, baseball experts were predicting the National League Western Division would be a struggle between the Los Angeles Dodgers and the San Francisco Giants. The Padres were not expected to contend.

However, San Diego played fundamental baseball under manager Bruce Bochy and have turned the season into a success.

The off-season addition of pitcher Kevin Brown was the most important acquisition San Diego made. Brown, who came to the Padres in a trade from the Florida Marlins, established himself as the ace of an already solid pitching corps.

Rightfielder Tony Gwynn is the offensive leader. Gwynn, who was with the Padres when they made their last trip to the World Series, is accompanied by sluggers Ken Caminiti, Greg Vaughn and firstbaseman Wally Joyner in an offensive force that could be the most dangerous in baseball.

Without a doubt, Trevor Hoffman was the best closing pitcher in the major leagues this season. The Padres did not lose a game during the regular season when they had the lead after eight innings.

The Padres easily disposed of the Houston Astros in the first round. They played great baseball in their upset over the Atlanta Braves in the National League Championship Series.

There's no reason why the San Diego club can't continue this success and upset the New York Yankees in the World Series.

They will be a huge underdog. However, that's been the story of the Padres' season.

News Across Niagara

Cost to park your wheels a 'fair fee'

By JENN MOIR
Staff Writer

The price of parking at Niagara College is "a fair fee" for students.

Sandy Fox, manager of ancillary services, says there are many "convenient" ways of paying for parking permits.

Student fees vary according to the time period involved, Fox says. From September to April or January to August the cost is $120. If you're buying one for an academic term, such as September to December, January to April or May to August it's $65. The monthly fee is $20; weekly is $10 and daily is $3. Staff pay $180 for the year.

Fox says that "our parking fees are relatively low" compared to other colleges' and universities'.

She says the price is "a fair fee for students" because staff are here 12 months, while students are here for the academic year.

She says the price is calculated by a committee "to look after all the operational costs."

Operations covers the following:

- snow removal
- salting and sanding
- lighting
- lot repairs, which would include allocating dollars for new lots
- line painting
- cleaning
- parking machines
- maintenance of walkways, stairwells and areas surrounding the buildings
- supplies for the actual permits and stickers.

Fox says the cost of a parking permit "in all likelihood will go up next year."

She says parking violations on each campus are covered by municipal parking bylaws. A bylaw officer issues a ticket "to ensure the policy is consistent."

The tickets maintains safety regulations and ensures there isn't abuse of designated spaces for the handicapped or fire lanes.

The fine for a ticket is payable to the respective city of each campus.

"That revenue does not come to Niagara College," says Fox.

Fox says if fines go unpaid the Ministry of Transportation will not renew your licence plate, so "better yet, buy a parking permit."

Food fest offers tantalizing samples, chefs' skills

By RACHEL CZIFRA
Staff Writer

Children laughing, adults dancing and restaurant owners grinning proved the success of the fifth Niagara Food Festival.

More than 30,000 people visited Merritt Island Oct. 3 and 4 to attend "The Peninsula's Tastiest Party."

Forty restaurants, wineries and food producers displayed a montage of the world's finest foods.

Indian tandoori chicken, Greek souvlakis, Italian ice cream and Mediterranean salad were some of the varieties displayed at the festival.

For those interested in improving their cooking, skills President's Choice sponsored demonstrations every half hour.

J. Mark Hand, chef de cuisine and food and beverage manager at Niagara College's Maid of the Mist Centre, in Niagara Falls, was one demonstrator who gave on-lookers a step-by-step guide to making grilled chicken and shrimp risotto.

On a picnic table at the conclusion of the demo, six volunteers sampled the shrimp fresh off the grill.

"The risotto was interesting," said Terry Nelson, 32, a Niagara College student chosen as a taste tester.

First-year Law and Security Administration students greet hundreds of hungry Food Festival goers. From left, Debbie Young, 19, of Port Colborne, Sarah Rochford, 19 and Mike Francis, 21, both of Oshawa. Photo by Rachel Czifra

"I'm definitely going to make the attempt to make it."

Linda Gerona, of Rochester, N.Y., said she enjoyed the presentation and will now add shrimp to her home menu, adding she learned not to throw everything into the pot at the same time.

Niagara College's participation had a goal. "The idea is to promote the college and the students," said Hand, whose pep talk to students was that they'll get as much out of the event as they put into it.

"I could go there and make millions of dollars, but that's not what it's all about."

Twelve chefs-in-training volunteered to represent the college.

"I didn't know there was so many people interested. A lot of people were asking questions about the food and the college," said Jordan Slade, 26, from the Cook-Apprenticeship program.

James Price, 20, of Niagara Falls, in the same program, said being at the fair was "a lot of fun."

Stepping away from the food, and walking around the grounds would bring you the sight of a nine-foot-tall juggler, a 50-year-old woman wearing a balloon hat, a fire-breathing man who called himself the "Fire Guy" and children who proudly showed off their kitten faces.

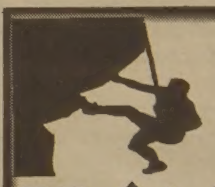
Local and foreign musicians brought audiences on a musically inspired journey to Trinidad and West Africa and to the mountains of Cuba with traditional Latin, calypso, polka and Dixieland jazz.

Ice-sculptors stepped out of their freezing studios to carve replicas of the world's wonders. A miniature Egyptian sphinx, India's Taj Mahal, England's Big Ben and New York's Empire State Building (including King Kong) awed passersby.

"The first couple times the statue melts it's difficult, but you get used to it," said Kevin Bender, an ice-sculptor from Hensall, Ont. "Then you realize the originality of every statue. Each one is different and will only be seen once."

"We are enjoying the people, the music and the food, of course. That's what it's all about," said Beverly Steed, of Welland.

Rock climbing lessons



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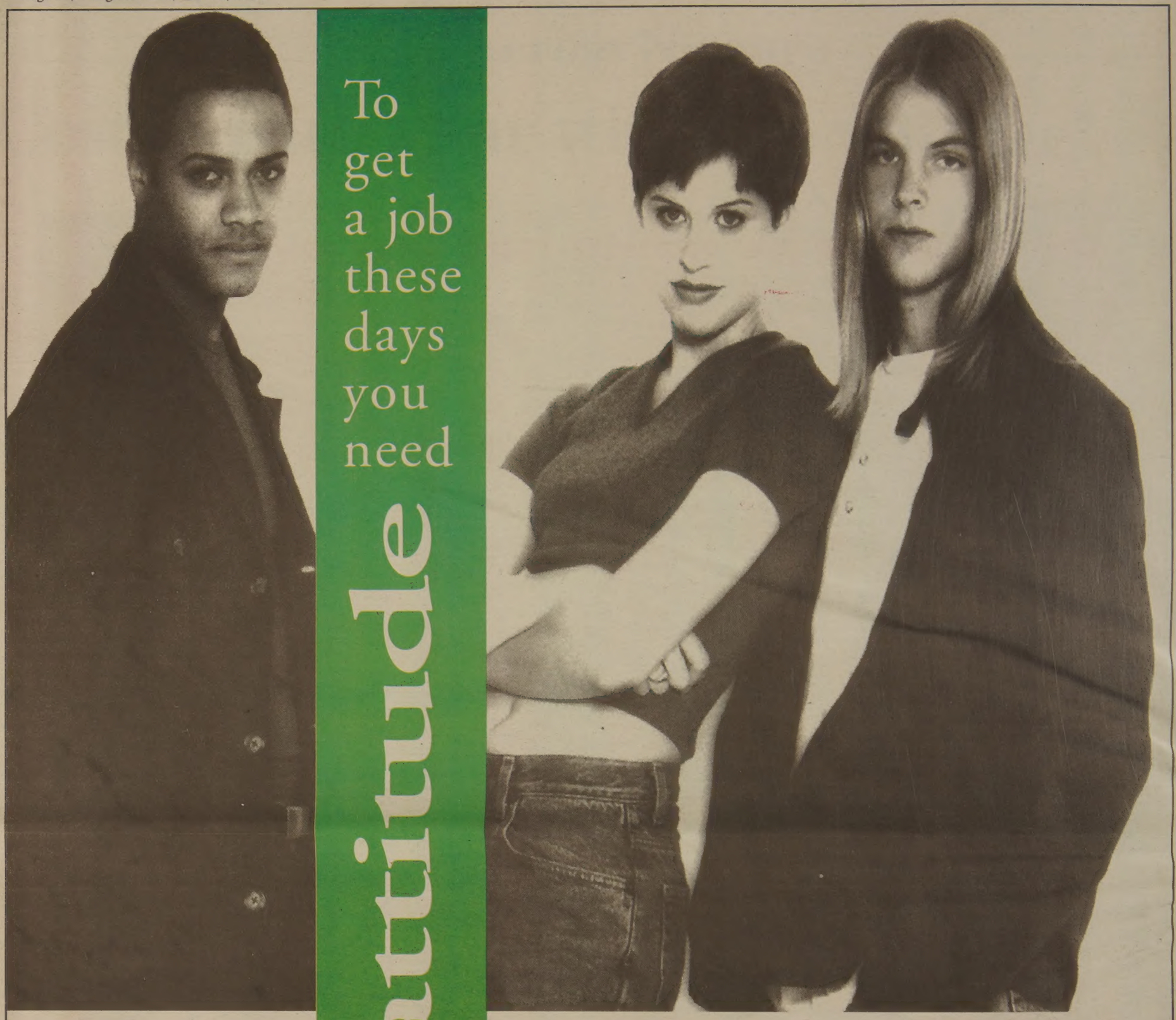

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